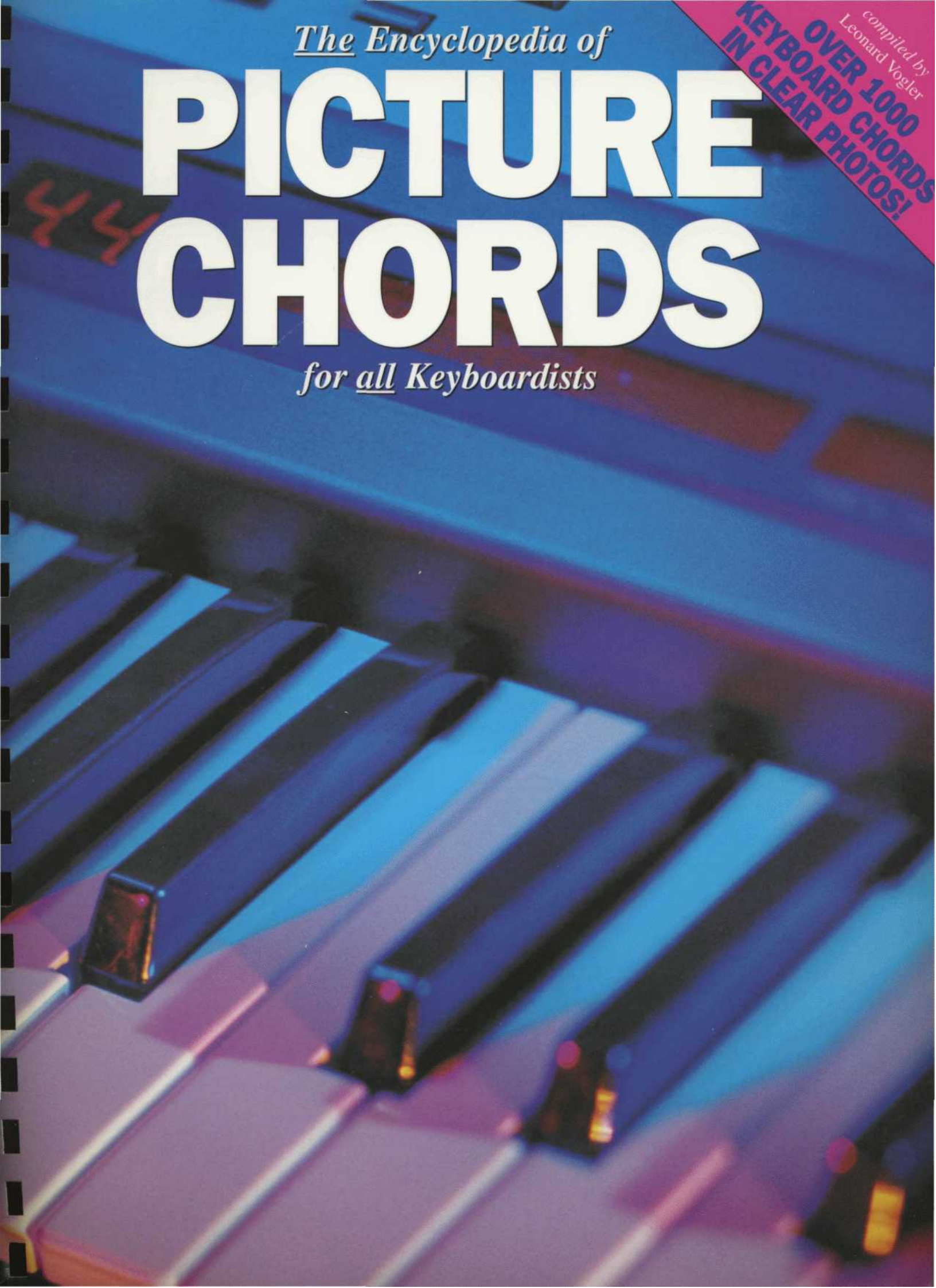
The Encyclopedia of

PICTURE CHORDS

for all Keyboardists

compiled by
Leonard Vogler

OVER 1000 KEYBOARD CHORDS IN CLEAR PHOTOS!



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Compiled by Leonard Vogler

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Contents

How to Use This Book 9
Alternate Chord Names 10
C chords 11
C major 11
C/E *first inversion* 11
C/G *second inversion* 11
C augmented 11
C augmented *first inversion* 12
C augmented *second inversion* 12
Csus4 12
Csus4 *first inversion* 12
Csus4 *second inversion* 12
C6 12
C6 *first inversion* 13
C6 *second inversion* 13
C6 *third inversion* 13
C7 13
C7 *first inversion* 13
C7 *second inversion* 13
C7 *third inversion* 14
C°7 14
C°7 *first inversion* 14
C°7 *second inversion* 14
C°7 *third inversion* 14
C major7 14
C major7 *first inversion* 15
C major7 *second inversion* 15
C major7 *third inversion* 15
C minor 15
C minor *first inversion* 15
C minor *second inversion* 15
C minor6 16
C minor6 *first inversion* 16
C minor6 *second inversion* 16
C minor6 *third inversion* 16
C minor7 16
C minor7 *first inversion* 16
C minor7 *second inversion* 17
C minor7 *third inversion* 17
C minor7♭5 17
C minor7♭5 *first inversion* 17
C minor7♭5 *second inversion* 17
C minor7♭5 *third inversion* 17
C minor (major7) 18
C minor (major7) *first inversion* 18
C minor (major7) *second inversion* 18
C minor (major7) *third inversion* 18
C chords using both hands 19
C7♭9 19
C7♯9 19
C9 20
C9sus4 20
C9♭5 20
C9♯5 21
C9♯11 21
C13 21
C13sus4 22
C13♭5 22
C13♯5 22
C13♭9 23
C13♯9 23
C13♭5♭9 23
C13♭5♯9 24
C13♯5♭9 24
C13♯5♯9 24
C 6/9 25
C major9 25
C major9♯11 25
C major13 26
C major13♭5 26
C major13♯5 26
C major13♭9 27
C major13♯9 27
C major13♭5♭9 27
C major13♭5♯9 28
C major13♯5♭9 28
C major13♯5♯9 28
C minor7♭9 29
C minor9 29
C minor11 29
C minor13 30
C minor9 (major7) 30
D♭ chords 31
D♭ major 31
D♭ *first inversion* 31
D♭ *second inversion* 31
D♭ augmented 31
D♭ augmented *first inversion* 32
D♭ augmented *second inversion* 32
D♭sus4 32
D♭sus4 *first inversion* 32
D♭sus4 *second inversion* 32
D♭6 32
D♭6 *first inversion* 33
D♭6 *second inversion* 33
D♭6 *third inversion* 33
D♭7 33
D♭7 *first inversion* 33
D♭7 *second inversion* 33
D♭7 *third inversion* 34
D♭°7 34
D♭°7 *first inversion* 34
D♭°7 *second inversion* 34
D♭°7 *third inversion* 34
D♭ major7 34
D♭ major7 *first inversion* 35
D♭ major7 *second inversion* 35
D♭ major7 *third inversion* 35
D♭ minor 35
D♭ minor *first inversion* 35
D♭ minor *second inversion* 35
D♭ minor6 36
D♭ minor6 *first inversion* 36
D♭ minor6 *second inversion* 36
D♭ minor6 *third inversion* 36
D♭ minor7 36
D♭ minor7 *first inversion* 36
D♭ minor7 *second inversion* 37
D♭ minor7 *third inversion* 37
D♭ minor7♭5 37
D♭ minor7♭5 *first inversion* 37
D♭ minor7♭5 *second inversion* 37
D♭ minor7♭5 *third inversion* 37
D♭ minor (major7) 38
D♭ minor (major7) *first inversion* 38
D♭ minor (major7) *second inversion* 38

D♭ minor (major7) *third inversion* ... 38

D♭ chords using both hands 39

D♭7♭9 ... 39
D♭7♯9 ... 39
D♭9 ... 40
D♭9sus4 ... 40
D♭9♭5 ... 40
D♭9♯5 ... 41
D♭9♯11 ... 41
D♭13 ... 41
D♭13sus4 ... 42
D♭13♭5 ... 42
D♭13♯5 ... 42
D♭13♭9 ... 43
D♭13♯9 ... 43
D♭13♭5♭9 ... 43
D♭13♭5♯9 ... 44
D♭13♯5♭9 ... 44
D♭13♯5♯9 ... 44
D♭ 6/9 ... 45
D♭ major9 ... 45
D♭ major9♯11 ... 45
D♭ major13 ... 46
D♭ major13♭5 ... 46
D♭ major13♯5 ... 46
D♭ major13♭9 ... 47
D♭ major13♯9 ... 47
D♭ major13♭5♭9 ... 47
D♭ major13♭5♯9 ... 48
D♭ major13♯5♭9 ... 48
D♭ major13♯5♯9 ... 48
D♭ minor7♭9 ... 49
D♭ minor9 ... 49
D♭ minor11 ... 49
D♭ minor13 ... 50
D♭ minor9 (major7) ... 50

D chords ... 51

D major ... 51
D *first inversion* ... 51
D *second inversion* ... 51
D augmented ... 51
D augmented *first inversion* ... 52
D augmented *second inversion* ... 52
Dsus4 ... 52
Dsus4 *first inversion* ... 52
Dsus4 *second inversion* ... 52
D6 ... 52
D6 *first inversion* ... 53
D6 *second inversion* ... 53
D6 *third inversion* ... 53
D7 ... 53
D7 *first inversion* ... 53
D7 *second inversion* ... 53
D7 *third inversion* ... 54
D°7 ... 54
D°7 *first inversion* ... 54
D°7 *second inversion* ... 54
D°7 *third inversion* ... 54
D major7 ... 54
D major7 *first inversion* ... 55
D major7 *second inversion* ... 55
D major7 *third inversion* ... 55
D minor ... 55
D minor *first inversion* ... 55
D minor *second inversion* ... 55
D minor6 ... 56
D minor6 *first inversion* ... 56
D minor6 *second inversion* ... 56
D minor6 *third inversion* ... 56
D minor7 ... 56
D minor7 *first inversion* ... 56
D minor7 *second inversion* ... 57
D minor7 *third inversion* ... 57
D minor7♭5 ... 57
D minor7♭5 *first inversion* ... 57
D minor7♭5 *second inversion* ... 57
D minor7♭5 *third inversion* ... 57
D minor (major7) ... 58
D minor (major7) *first inversion* ... 58
D minor (major7) *second inversion* ... 58
D minor (major7) *third inversion* ... 58

D chords using both hands 59

D7♭9 ... 59
D7♯9 ... 59
D9 ... 60
D9sus4 ... 60
D9♭5 ... 60
D9♯5 ... 61
D9♯11 ... 61
D13 ... 61
D13sus4 ... 62
D13♭5 ... 62
D13♯5 ... 62
D13♭9 ... 63
D13♯9 ... 63
D13♭5♭9 ... 63
D13♭5♯9 ... 64
D13♯5♭9 ... 64
D13♯5♯9 ... 64
D 6/9 ... 65
D major9 ... 65
D major9♯11 ... 65
D major13 ... 66
D major13♭5 ... 66
D major13♯5 ... 66
D major13♭9 ... 67
D major13♯9 ... 67
D major13♭5♭9 ... 67
D major13♭5♯9 ... 68
D major13♯5♭9 ... 68
D major13♯5♯9 ... 68
D minor7♭9 ... 69
D minor9 ... 69
D minor11 ... 69
D minor13 ... 70
D minor9 (major7) ... 70

E♭ chords ... 71

E♭ major ... 71
E♭ *first inversion* ... 71
E♭ *second inversion* ... 71
E♭ augmented ... 71
E♭ augmented *first inversion* ... 72
E♭ augmented *second inversion* ... 72
E♭sus4 ... 72
E♭sus4 *first inversion* ... 72
E♭sus4 *second inversion* ... 72
E♭6 ... 72
E♭6 *first inversion* ... 73
E♭6 *second inversion* ... 73
E♭6 *third inversion* ... 73
E♭7 ... 73
E♭7 *first inversion* ... 73
E♭7 *second inversion* ... 73
E♭7 *third inversion* ... 74
E♭°7 ... 74
E♭°7 *first inversion* ... 74
E♭°7 *second inversion* ... 74
E♭°7 *third inversion* ... 74
E♭ major7 ... 74
E♭ major7 *first inversion* ... 75
E♭ major7 *second inversion* ... 75
E♭ major7 *third inversion* ... 75
E♭ minor ... 75
E♭ minor *first inversion* ... 75
E♭ minor *second inversion* ... 75
E♭ minor6 ... 76
E♭ minor6 *first inversion* ... 76
E♭ minor6 *second inversion* ... 76
E♭ minor6 *third inversion* ... 76
E♭ minor7 ... 76
E♭ minor7 *first inversion* ... 76
E♭ minor7 *second inversion* ... 77
E♭ minor7 *third inversion* ... 77
E♭ minor7♭5 ... 77
E♭ minor7♭5 *first inversion* ... 77
E♭ minor7♭5 *second inversion* ... 77
E♭ minor7♭5 *third inversion* ... 77
E♭ minor (major7) ... 78
E♭ minor (major7) *first inversion* ... 78
E♭ minor (major7) *second inversion* .. 78
E♭ minor (major7) *third inversion* ... 78

E♭ chords using both hands 79

E♭7♭9 ... 79
E♭7♯9 ... 79
E♭9 ... 80
E♭9sus4 ... 80
E♭9♭5 ... 80
E♭9♯5 ... 81
E♭9♯11 ... 81
E♭13 ... 81
E♭13sus4 ... 82
E♭13♭5 ... 82
E♭13♯5 ... 82
E♭13♭9 ... 83
E♭13♯9 ... 83
E♭13♭5♭9 ... 83
E♭13♭5♯9 ... 84
E♭13♯5♭9 ... 84
E♭13♯5♯9 ... 84
E♭ 6/9 ... 85

E♭ major9 ... 85
E♭ major9♯11 ... 85
E♭ major13 ... 86
E♭ major13♭5 ... 86
E♭ major13♯5 ... 86
E♭ major13♭9 ... 87
E♭ major13♯9 ... 87
E♭ major13♭5♭9 ... 87
E♭ major13♭5♯9 ... 88
E♭ major13♯5♭9 ... 88
E♭ major13♯5♯9 ... 88
E♭ minor7♭9 ... 89
E♭ minor9 ... 89
E♭ minor11 ... 89
E♭ minor13 ... 90
E♭ minor9 (major7) ... 90

E chords ... 91

E major ... 91
E *first inversion* ... 91
E *second inversion* ... 91
E augmented ... 91
E augmented *first inversion* ... 92
E augmented *second inversion* ... 92
Esus4 ... 92
Esus4 *first inversion* ... 92
Esus4 *second inversion* ... 92
E6 ... 92
E6 *first inversion* ... 93
E6 *second inversion* ... 93
E6 *third inversion* ... 93
E7 ... 93
E7 *first inversion* ... 93
E7 *second inversion* ... 93
E7 *third inversion* ... 94
E°7 ... 94
E°7 *first inversion* ... 94
E°7 *second inversion* ... 94
E°7 *third inversion* ... 94
E major7 ... 94
E major7 *first inversion* ... 95
E major7 *second inversion* ... 95
E major7 *third inversion* ... 95
E minor ... 95
E minor *first inversion* ... 95
E minor *second inversion* ... 95
E minor6 ... 96
E minor6 *first inversion* ... 96
E minor6 *second inversion* ... 96
E minor6 *third inversion* ... 96
E minor7 ... 96
E minor7 *first inversion* ... 96
E minor7 *second inversion* ... 97
E minor7 *third inversion* ... 97
E minor7♭5 ... 97
E minor7♭5 *first inversion* ... 97
E minor7♭5 *second inversion* ... 97
E minor7♭5 *third inversion* ... 97
E minor (major7) ... 98
E minor (major7) *first inversion* ... 98
E minor (major7) *second inversion* ... 98
E minor (major7) *third inversion* ... 98

E chords using both hands ... 99

E7♭9 ... 99
E7♯9 ... 99
E9 ... 100
E9sus4 ... 100
E9♭5 ... 100
E9♯5 ... 101
E9♯11 ... 101
E13 ... 101
E13sus4 ... 102
E13♭5 ... 102
E13♯5 ... 102
E13♭9 ... 103
E13♯9 ... 103
E13♭5♭9 ... 103
E13♭5♯9 ... 104
E13♯5♭9 ... 104
E13♯5♯9 ... 104
E 6/9 ... 105
E major9 ... 105
E major9♯11 ... 105
E major13 ... 106
E major13♭5 ... 106
E major13♯5 ... 106
E major13♭9 ... 107
E major13♯9 ... 107
E major13♭5♭9 ... 107
E major13♭5♯9 ... 108
E major13♯5♭9 ... 108
E major13♯5♯9 ... 108
E minor7♭9 ... 109
E minor9 ... 109
E minor11 ... 109
E minor13 ... 110
E minor9 (major7) ... 110

F chords ... 111

F major ... 111
F *first inversion* ... 111
F *second inversion* ... 111
F augmented ... 111
F augmented *first inversion* ... 112
F augmented *second inversion* ... 112
Fsus4 ... 112
Fsus4 *first inversion* ... 112
Fsus4 *second inversion* ... 112
F6 ... 112
F6 *first inversion* ... 113
F6 *second inversion* ... 113
F6 *third inversion* ... 113
F7 ... 113
F7 *first inversion* ... 113
F7 *second inversion* ... 113
F7 *third inversion* ... 114
F°7 ... 114
F°7 *first inversion* ... 114
F°7 *second inversion* ... 114
F°7 *third inversion* ... 114
F major7 ... 114
F major7 *first inversion* ... 115
F major7 *second inversion* ... 115
F major7 *third inversion* ... 115
F minor ... 115
F minor *first inversion* ... 115
F minor *second inversion* ... 115
F minor6 ... 116
F minor6 *first inversion* ... 116
F minor6 *second inversion* ... 116
F minor6 *third inversion* ... 116
F minor7 ... 116
F minor7 *first inversion* ... 116
F minor7 *second inversion* ... 117
F minor7 *third inversion* ... 117
F minor7♭5 ... 117
F minor7♭5 *first inversion* ... 117
F minor7♭5 *second inversion* ... 117
F minor7♭5 *third inversion* ... 117
F minor (major7) ... 118
F minor (major7) *first inversion* ... 118
F minor (major7) *second inversion* ... 118
F minor (major7) *third inversion* ... 118

F chords using both hands ... 119

F7♭9 ... 119
F7♯9 ... 119
F9 ... 120
F9sus4 ... 120
F9♭5 ... 120
F9♯5 ... 121
F9♯11 ... 121
F13 ... 121
F13sus4 ... 122
F13♭5 ... 122
F13♯5 ... 122
F13♭9 ... 123
F13♯9 ... 123
F13♭5♭9 ... 123
F13♭5♯9 ... 124
F13♯5♭9 ... 124
F13♯5♯9 ... 124
F 6/9 ... 125
F major9 ... 125
F major9♯11 ... 125
F major13 ... 126
F major13♭5 ... 126
F major13♯5 ... 126
F major13♭9 ... 127
F major13♯9 ... 127
F major13♭5♭9 ... 127
F major13♭5♯9 ... 128
F major13♯5♭9 ... 128
F major13♯5♯9 ... 128
F minor7♭9 ... 129
F minor9 ... 129
F minor11 ... 129
F minor13 ... 130
F minor9 (major7) ... 130

F♯ chords ... 131

F♯ major ... 131
F♯ *first inversion* ... 131
F♯ *second inversion* ... 131

F♯ augmented ... 131
F♯ augmented *first inversion* ... 132
F♯ augmented *second inversion* ... 132
F♯sus4 ... 132
F♯sus4 *first inversion* ... 132
F♯sus4 *second inversion* ... 132
F♯6 ... 132
F♯6 *first inversion* ... 133
F♯6 *second inversion* ... 133
F♯6 *third inversion* ... 133
F♯7 ... 133
F♯7 *first inversion* ... 133
F♯7 *second inversion* ... 133
F♯7 *third inversion* ... 134
F♯°7 ... 134
F♯°7 *first inversion* ... 134
F♯°7 *second inversion* ... 134
F♯°7 *third inversion* ... 134
F♯ major7 ... 134
F♯ major7 *first inversion* ... 135
F♯ major7 *second inversion* ... 135
F♯ major7 *third inversion* ... 135
F♯ minor ... 135
F♯ minor *first inversion* ... 135
F♯ minor *second inversion* ... 135
F♯ minor6 ... 136
F♯ minor6 *first inversion* ... 136
F♯ minor6 *second inversion* ... 136
F♯ minor6 *third inversion* ... 136
F♯ minor7 ... 136
F♯ minor7 *first inversion* ... 136
F♯ minor7 *second inversion* ... 137
F♯ minor7 *third inversion* ... 137
F♯ minor7♭5 ... 137
F♯ minor7♭5 *first inversion* ... 137
F♯ minor7♭5 *second inversion* ... 137
F♯ minor7♭5 *third inversion* ... 137
F♯ minor (major7) ... 138
F♯ minor (major7) *first inversion* ... 138
F♯ minor (major7) *second inversion* 138
F♯ minor (major7) *third inversion* .. 138

F♯ chords using both hands ... 139

F♯7♭9 ... 139
F♯7♯9 ... 139
F♯9 ... 140
F♯9sus4 ... 140
F♯9♭5 ... 140
F♯9♯5 ... 141
F♯9♯11 ... 141
F♯13 ... 141
F♯13sus4 ... 142
F♯13♭5 ... 142
F♯13♯5 ... 142
F♯13♭9 ... 143
F♯13♯9 ... 143
F♯13♭5♭9 ... 143
F♯13♭5♯9 ... 144
F♯13♯5♭9 ... 144
F♯13♯5♯9 ... 144
F♯ 6/9 ... 145
F♯ major9 ... 145
F♯ major9♯11 ... 145
F♯ major13 ... 146
F♯ major13♭5 ... 146
F♯ major13♯5 ... 146
F♯ major13♭9 ... 147
F♯ major13♯9 ... 147
F♯ major13♭5♭9 ... 147
F♯ major13♭5♯9 ... 148
F♯ major13♯5♭9 ... 148
F♯ major13♯5♯9 ... 148
F♯ minor7♭9 ... 149
F♯ minor9 ... 149
F♯ minor11 ... 149
F♯ minor13 ... 150
F♯ minor9 (major7) ... 150

G chords ... 151

G major ... 151
G *first inversion* ... 151
G *second inversion* ... 151
G augmented ... 151
G augmented *first inversion* ... 152
G augmented *second inversion* ... 152
Gsus4 ... 152
Gsus4 *first inversion* ... 152
Gsus4 *second inversion* ... 152
G6 ... 152
G6 *first inversion* ... 153
G6 *second inversion* ... 153
G6 *third inversion* ... 153
G7 ... 153
G7 *first inversion* ... 153
G7 *second inversion* ... 153
G7 *third inversion* ... 154
G°7 ... 154
G°7 *first inversion* ... 154
G°7 *second inversion* ... 154
G°7 *third inversion* ... 154
G major7 ... 154
G major7 *first inversion* ... 155
G major7 *second inversion* ... 155
G major7 *third inversion* ... 155
G minor ... 155
G minor *first inversion* ... 155
G minor *second inversion* ... 155
G minor6 ... 156
G minor6 *first inversion* ... 156
G minor6 *second inversion* ... 156
G minor6 *third inversion* ... 156
G minor7 ... 156
G minor7 *first inversion* ... 156
G minor7 *second inversion* ... 157
G minor7 *third inversion* ... 157
G minor7♭5 ... 157
G minor7♭5 *first inversion* ... 157
G minor7♭5 *second inversion* ... 157
G minor7♭5 *third inversion* ... 157
G minor (major7) ... 158
G minor (major7) *first inversion* ... 158
G minor (major7) *second inversion* . 158
G minor (major7) *third inversion* .. 158

G chords using both hands 159

G7♭9 ... 159
G7♯9 ... 159
G9 ... 160
G9sus4 ... 160
G9♭5 ... 160
G9♯5 ... 161
G9♯11 ... 161
G13 ... 161
G13sus4 ... 162
G13♭5 ... 162
G13♯5 ... 162
G13♭9 ... 163
G13♯9 ... 163
G13♭5♭9 ... 163
G13♭5♯9 ... 164
G13♯5♭9 ... 164
G13♯5♯9 ... 164
G 6/9 ... 165
G major9 ... 165
G major9♯11 ... 165
G major13 ... 166
G major13♭5 ... 166
G major13♯5 ... 166
G major13♭9 ... 167
G major13♯9 ... 167
G major13♭5♭9 ... 167
G major13♭5♯9 ... 168
G major13♯5♭9 ... 168
G major13♯5♯9 ... 168
G minor7♭9 ... 169
G minor9 ... 169
G minor11 ... 169
G minor13 ... 170
G minor9 (major7) ... 170

A♭ chords ... 171

A♭ major ... 171
A♭ *first inversion* ... 171
A♭ *second inversion* ... 171
A♭ augmented ... 171
A♭ augmented *first inversion* ... 172
A♭ augmented *second inversion* ... 172
A♭sus4 ... 172
A♭sus4 *first inversion* ... 172
A♭sus4 *second inversion* ... 172
A♭6 ... 172
A♭6 *first inversion* ... 173
A♭6 *second inversion* ... 173
A♭6 *third inversion* ... 173
A♭7 ... 173
A♭7 *first inversion* ... 173
A♭7 *second inversion* ... 173
A♭7 *third inversion* ... 174
A♭°7 ... 174
A♭°7 *first inversion* ... 174
A♭°7 *second inversion* ... 174
A♭°7 *third inversion* ... 174
A♭ major7 ... 174
A♭ major7 *first inversion* ... 175

A♭ major7 *second inversion* 175
A♭ major7 *third inversion* 175
A♭ minor 175
A♭ minor *first inversion* 175
A♭ minor *second inversion* 175
A♭ minor6 176
A♭ minor6 *first inversion* 176
A♭ minor6 *second inversion* 176
A♭ minor6 *third inversion* 176
A♭ minor7 176
A♭ minor7 *first inversion* 176
A♭ minor7 *second inversion* 177
A♭ minor7 *third inversion* 177
A♭ minor7♭5 177
A♭ minor7♭5 *first inversion* 177
A♭ minor7♭5 *second inversion* 177
A♭ minor7♭5 *third inversion* 177
A♭ minor (major7) 178
A♭ minor (major7) *first inversion* 178
A♭ minor (major7) *second inversion* 178
A♭ minor (major7) *third inversion* .. 178

A♭ chords using both hands... 179

A♭7♭9 179
A♭7♯9 179
A♭9 180
A♭9sus4 180
A♭9♭5 180
A♭9♯5 181
A♭9♯11 181
A♭13 181
A♭13sus4 182
A♭13♭5 182
A♭13♯5 182
A♭13♭9 183
A♭13♯9 183
A♭13♭5♭9 183
A♭13♭5♯9 184
A♭13♯5♭9 184
A♭13♯5♯9 184
A♭ 6/9 185
A♭ major9 185
A♭ major9♯11 185
A♭ major13 186
A♭ major13♭5 186
A♭ major13♯5 186
A♭ major13♭9 187
A♭ major13♯9 187
A♭ major13♭5♭9 187
A♭ major13♭5♯9 188
A♭ major13♯5♭9 188
A♭ major13♯5♯9 188
A♭ minor7♭9 189
A♭ minor9 189
A♭ minor11 189
A♭ minor13 190
A♭ minor9 (major7) 190

A chords 191

A major 191
A *first inversion* 191
A *second inversion* 191
A augmented 191
A augmented *first inversion* 192
A augmented *second inversion* 192
Asus4 192
Asus4 *first inversion* 192
Asus4 *second inversion* 192
A6 192
A6 *first inversion* 193
A6 *second inversion* 193
A6 *third inversion* 193
A7 193
A7 *first inversion* 193
A7 *second inversion* 193
A7 *third inversion* 194
A°7 194
A°7 *first inversion* 194
A°7 *second inversion* 194
A°7 *third inversion* 194
A major7 194
A major7 *first inversion* 195
A major7 *second inversion* 195
A major7 *third inversion* 195
A minor 195
A minor *first inversion* 195
A minor *second inversion* 195
A minor6 196
A minor6 *first inversion* 196
A minor6 *second inversion* 196
A minor6 *third inversion* 196
A minor7 196
A minor7 *first inversion* 196
A minor7 *second inversion* 197
A minor7 *third inversion* 197
A minor7♭5 197
A minor7♭5 *first inversion* 197
A minor7♭5 *second inversion* 197
A minor7♭5 *third inversion* 197
A minor (major7) 198
A minor (major7) *first inversion* 198
A minor (major7) *second inversion* . 198
A minor (major7) *third inversion* .. 198

A chords using both hands 199

A7♭9 199
A7♯9 199
A9 200
A9sus4 200
A9♭5 200
A9♯5 201
A9♯11 201
A13 201
A13sus4 202
A13♭5 202
A13♯5 202
A13♭9 203
A13♯9 203
A13♭5♭9 203
A13♭5♯9 204
A13♯5♭9 204
A13♯5♯9 204
A 6/9 205
A major9 205
A major9♯11 205
A major13 206
A major13♭5 206
A major13♯5 206
A major13♭9 207
A major13♯9 207
A major13♭5♭9 207
A major13♭5♯9 208
A major13♯5♭9 208
A major13♯5♯9 208
A minor7♭9 209
A minor9 209
A minor11 209
A minor13 210
A minor9 (major7) 210

B♭ chords 211

B♭ major 211
B♭ *first inversion* 211
B♭ *second inversion* 211
B♭ augmented 211
B♭ augmented *first inversion* 212
B♭ augmented *second inversion* 212
B♭sus4 212
B♭sus4 *first inversion* 212
B♭sus4 *second inversion* 212
B♭6 212
B♭6 *first inversion* 213
B♭6 *second inversion* 213
B♭6 *third inversion* 213
B♭7 213
B♭7 *first inversion* 213
B♭7 *second inversion* 213
B♭7 *third inversion* 214
B♭°7 214
B♭°7 *first inversion* 214
B♭°7 *second inversion* 214
B♭°7 *third inversion* 214
B♭ major7 214
B♭ major7 *first inversion* 215
B♭ major7 *second inversion* 215
B♭ major7 *third inversion* 215
B♭ minor 215
B♭ minor *first inversion* 215
B♭ minor *second inversion* 215
B♭ minor6 216
B♭ minor6 *first inversion* 216
B♭ minor6 *second inversion* 216
B♭ minor6 *third inversion* 216
B♭ minor7 216
B♭ minor7 *first inversion* 216
B♭ minor7 *second inversion* 217
B♭ minor7 *third inversion* 217
B♭ minor7♭5 217
B♭ minor7♭5 *first inversion* 217
B♭ minor7♭5 *second inversion* 217
B♭ minor7♭5 *third inversion* 217
B♭ minor (major7) 218
B♭ minor (major7) *first inversion* 218
B♭ minor (major7) *second inversion* 218

B♭ minor (major7) *third inversion* .. 218
B♭ chords using both hands ... 219
B♭7♭9 ... 219
B♭7♯9 ... 219
B♭9 ... 220
B♭9sus4 ... 220
B♭9♭5 ... 220
B♭9♯5 ... 221
B♭9♯11 ... 221
B♭13 ... 221
B♭13sus4 ... 222
B♭13♭5 ... 222
B♭13♯5 ... 222
B♭13♭9 ... 223
B♭13♯9 ... 223
B♭13♭5♭9 ... 223
B♭13♭5♯9 ... 224
B♭13♯5♭9 ... 224
B♭13♯5♯9 ... 224
B♭ 6/9 ... 225
B♭ major9 ... 225
B♭ major9♯11 ... 225
B♭ major13 ... 226
B♭ major13♭5 ... 226
B♭ major13♯5 ... 226
B♭ major13♭9 ... 227
B♭ major13♯9 ... 227
B♭ major13♭5♭9 ... 227
B♭ major13♭5♯9 ... 228
B♭ major13♯5♭9 ... 228
B♭ major13♯5♯9 ... 228
B♭ minor7♭9 ... 229
B♭ minor9 ... 229
B♭ minor11 ... 229
B♭ minor13 ... 230
B♭ minor9 (major7) ... 230
B chords ... 231
B major ... 231
B *first inversion* ... 231
B *second inversion* ... 231
B augmented ... 231
B augmented *first inversion* ... 232
B augmented *second inversion* ... 232
Bsus4 ... 232
Bsus4 *first inversion* ... 232
Bsus4 *second inversion* ... 232
B6 ... 232
B6 *first inversion* ... 233
B6 *second inversion* ... 233
B6 *third inversion* ... 233
B7 ... 233
B7 *first inversion* ... 233
B7 *second inversion* ... 233
B7 *third inversion* ... 234
B°7 ... 234
B°7 *first inversion* ... 234
B°7 *second inversion* ... 234
B°7 *third inversion* ... 234
B major7 ... 234
B major7 *first inversion* ... 235
B major7 *second inversion* ... 235
B major7 *third inversion* ... 235
B minor ... 235
B minor *first inversion* ... 235
B minor *second inversion* ... 235
B minor6 ... 236
B minor6 *first inversion* ... 236
B minor6 *second inversion* ... 236
B minor6 *third inversion* ... 236
B minor7 ... 236
B minor7 *first inversion* ... 236
B minor7 *second inversion* ... 237
B minor7 *third inversion* ... 237
B minor7♭5 ... 237
B minor7♭5 *first inversion* ... 237
B minor7♭5 *second inversion* ... 237
B minor7♭5 *third inversion* ... 237
B minor (major7) ... 238
B minor (major7) *first inversion* ... 238
B minor (major7) *second inversion* .. 238
B minor (major7) *third inversion* .. 238
B chords using both hands ... 239
B7♭9 ... 239
B7♯9 ... 239
B9 ... 240
B9sus4 ... 240
B9♭5 ... 240
B9♯5 ... 241
B9♯11 ... 241
B13 ... 241
B13sus4 ... 242
B13♭5 ... 242
B13♯5 ... 242
B13♭9 ... 243
B13♯9 ... 243
B13♭5♭9 ... 243
B13♭5♯9 ... 244
B13♯5♭9 ... 244
B13♯5♯9 ... 244
B 6/9 ... 245
B major9 ... 245
B major9♯11 ... 245
B major13 ... 246
B major13♭5 ... 246
B major13♯5 ... 246
B major13♭9 ... 247
B major13♯9 ... 247
B major13♭5♭9 ... 247
B major13♭5♯9 ... 248
B major13♯5♭9 ... 248
B major13♯5♯9 ... 248
B minor7♭9 ... 249
B minor9 ... 249
B minor11 ... 249
B minor13 ... 250
B minor9 (major7) ... 250
Chord Construction ... 251
Scales ... 251
Intervals ... 252
Chords ... 252
Inversions ... 252
Morning Has Broken ... 253
Altered Triads ... 254
Enharmonic Spelling ... 254
Progressions ... 255

How to Use This Book

There's a lot more to playing piano than just banging out a bunch of chords and trying to make it sound like a sonata or concerto—but then again, we're not all Mozart, are we? Nevertheless, the idea of playing for the sheer enjoyment of it is very appealing to most of us. Hence, this book. Playing chords on a piano is a great way to accompany yourself. You simply read the chord names on the sheet music, play the chords, and sing along. Although it might take a little practice to move from one chord to another, eventually you will be able to play and sing along with all your favorite melodies. And with the addition of some bass notes and chord inversions, you will be sounding like a pro in no time.

This book is divided into twelve parts—one part for every key. These parts are arranged *chromatically*—one half-step at a time—from the key of C up to the key of B. There are two sections for each key: The first section contains chords that are made up of three or four notes and can be played with one hand. These are chords such as major, minor, augmented, diminished, and so on. The second section is made up with chords of five or more notes and are usually played with two hands. These chords are extended chords, such as 9, major9♯11, major13, and so on.

For each chord there are four elements—the chord name, photo, keyboard diagram, and the notes of the chord or *chord spelling.*

The *chord name* is just that, the name of the chord. There are different names and symbols for chords, but the names used in this book are fairly common and are what you are likely to see in sheet music and music books (for alternate chord names see page 10).

The *photo* shows you where to put your hands on the keyboard. Most of the photos use hand positions that were chosen with the beginning player in mind—basically these fingerings are the easiest and most comfortable in most situations. You will notice that the hands are not centered on every photograph, this is to show how the hand moves in relationship to the *tonic* or *root note* and to provide you with a better viewpoint when playing these chords on your piano or electronic keyboard (your keyboard doesn't move—your hands do).

The *keyboard diagram,* under the photo, shows which keys are used to make up the chord. These are the grayed areas of the diagram.

Finally, the *notes of the chord* are directly below the keyboard diagram. These are the notes that make up the chord. Sometimes you will see note names that may not be familiar to you, like C♭ or B♯. Don't panic, these are enharmonic spellings (explained on page 254).

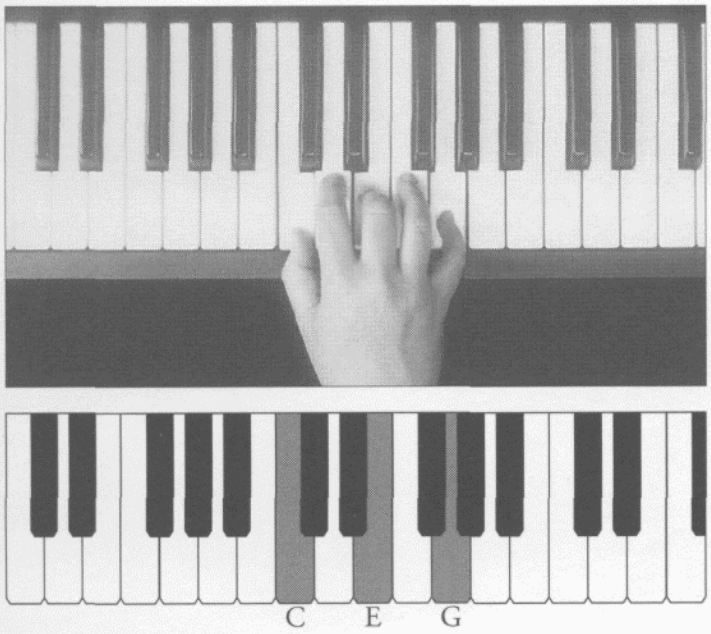
Alternate Chord Names

This chord encyclopedia uses a standard chord-naming approach, but when playing from sheet music or using other music books, you will find alternative chord names or symbols. Below is a chart by which you can cross reference alternative names and symbols with the ones used in this book.

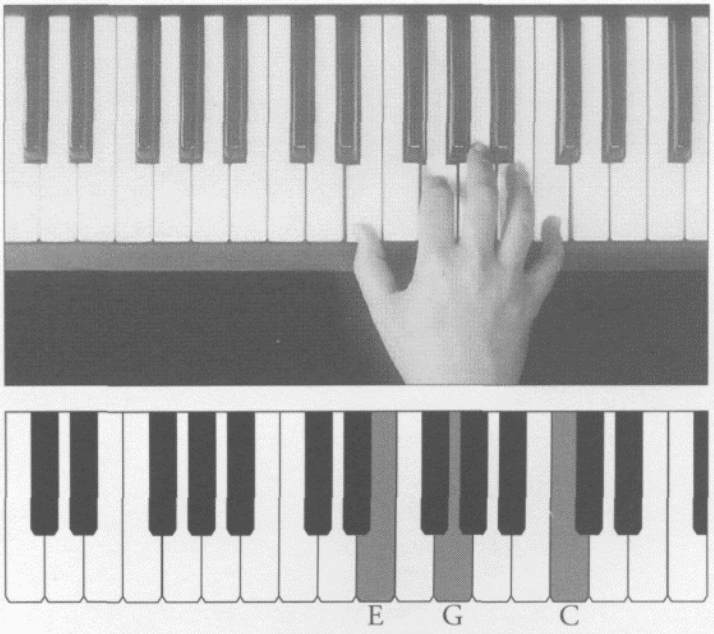
Chord Name	Alternate Name or Symbol
major	M; Maj
minor	m; min; -
6	Maj6; M6
minor6	min6; -6
6/9	6(add9); Maj6(add9); M6(add9)
major7	M7; Maj7; △7; △
7	dominant seventh; dom
7♭5	7(♭5); 7(-5)
7♯5	+7; 7(+5); aug7
minor7	m7; min7; -7
minor (major7)	m(M7); min(Maj7); m(+7); -(M7); min(addM7)
minor7♭5	ø7; ½ dim; ½ dim7; m7(♭5); m7(-5)
°7	°; dim; dim7
9	7(add9)
9♭5	9(♭5); 9(-5)
9♯5	+9; 9(+5); aug9
major9	M9; △9; Maj7(add9); M7(add9)
7♭9	7(♭9); 7(add♭9); 7-9; -9
minor11	m11; min11
♯11	(+11); △(+11); M7(+11); △(♯11); M7(♯11)
13	7(add13); 7(add6)
major13	M13; △(add13); Maj7(add13); M7(add13); M7(add6)
minor13	m13; -13; min7(add13); m7(add13); -7(add13);
sus4	(sus4)
augmented	aug; (♯5); +5

C chords

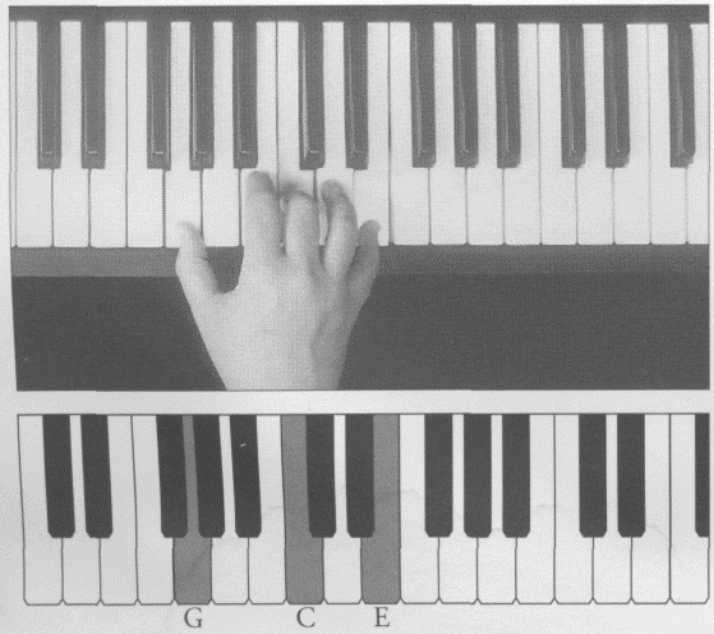
C major



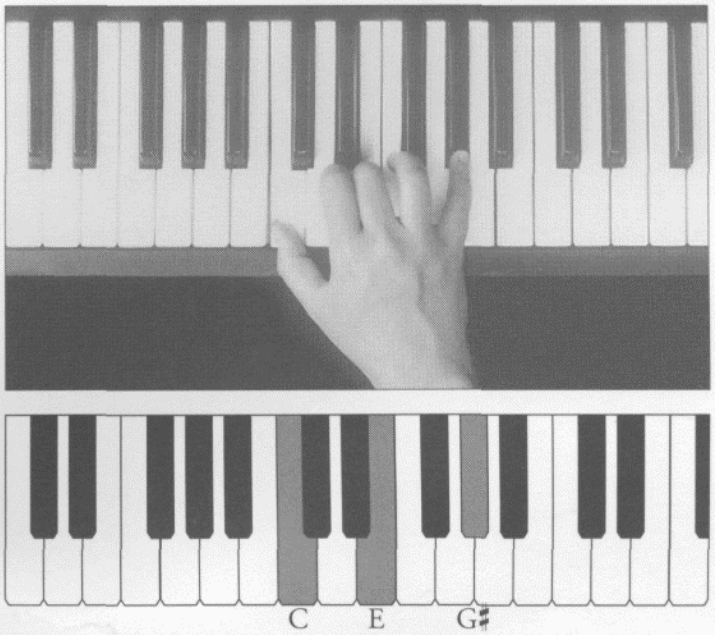
C/E *first inversion*



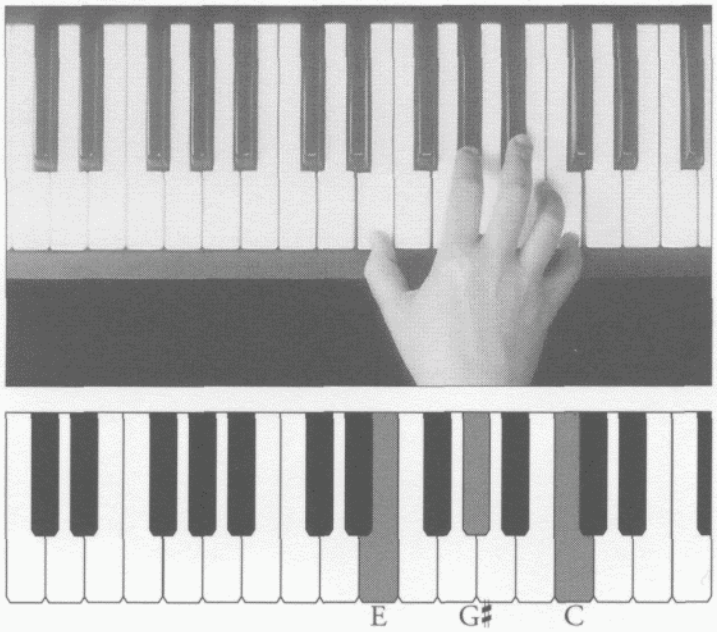
C/G *second inversion*



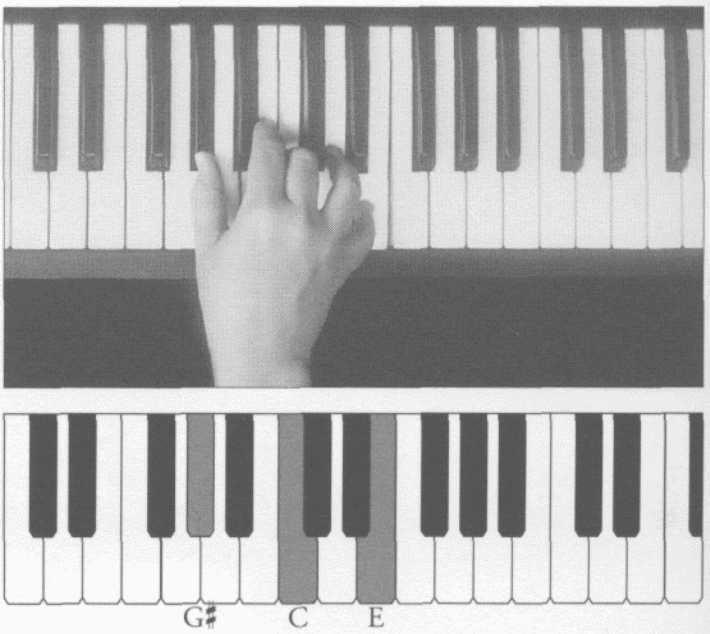
C augmented



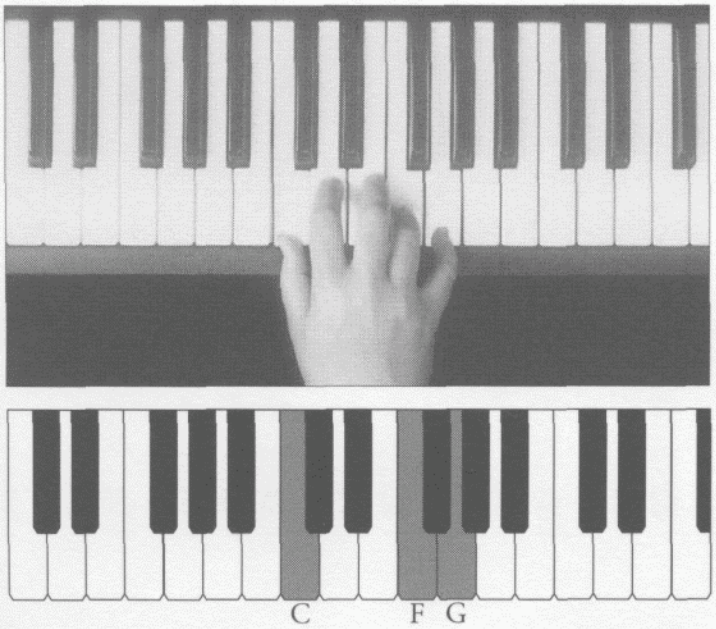
C augmented *first inversion*



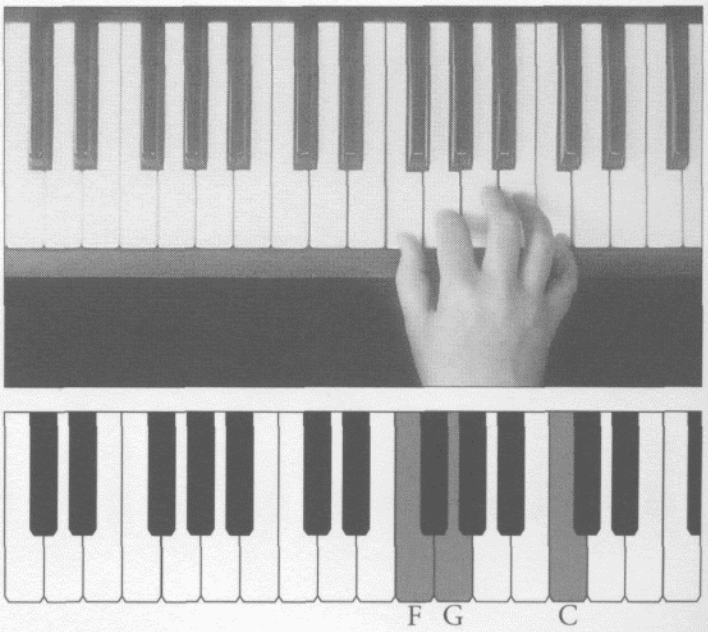
C augmented *second inversion*



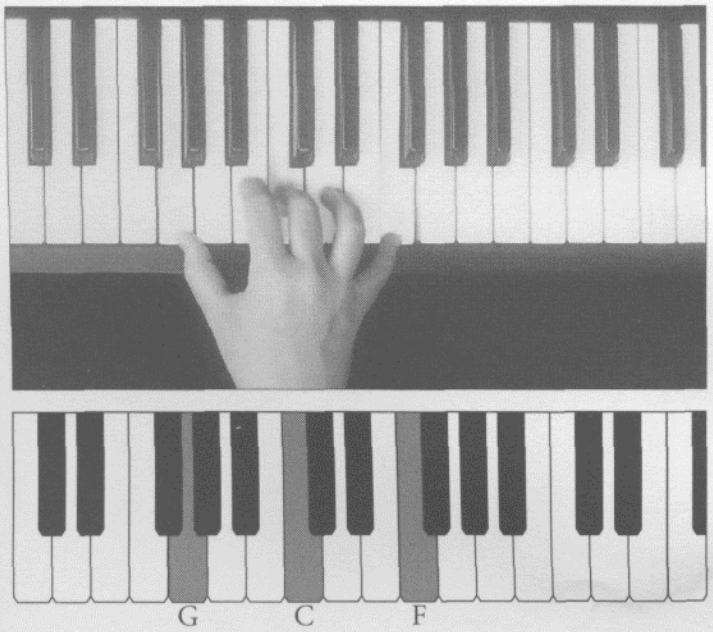
Csus4



Csus4 *first inversion*

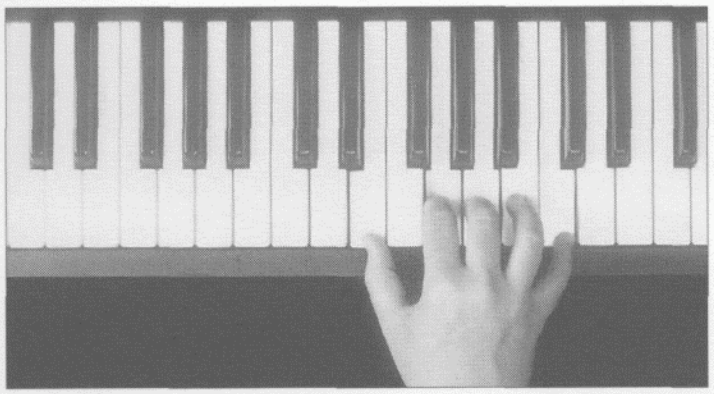


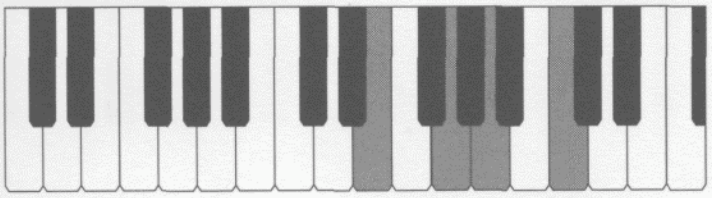
Csus4 *second inversion*



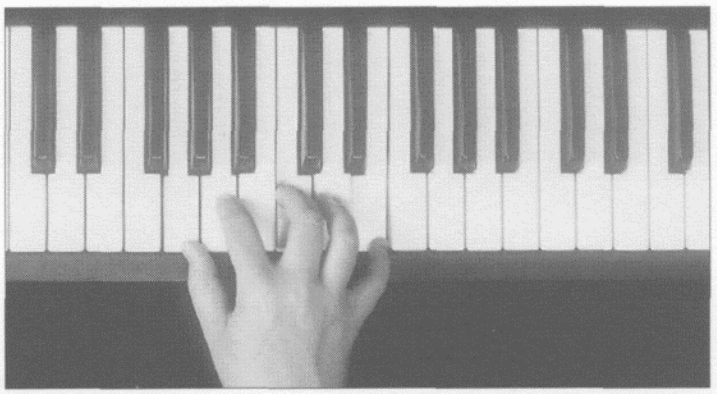
C6

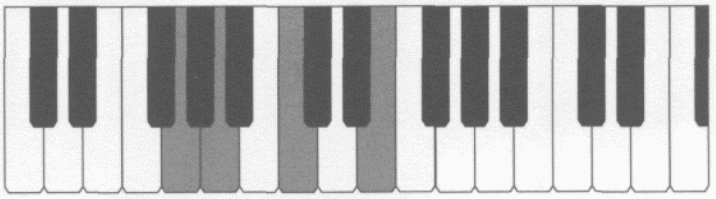
C6 *first inversion*



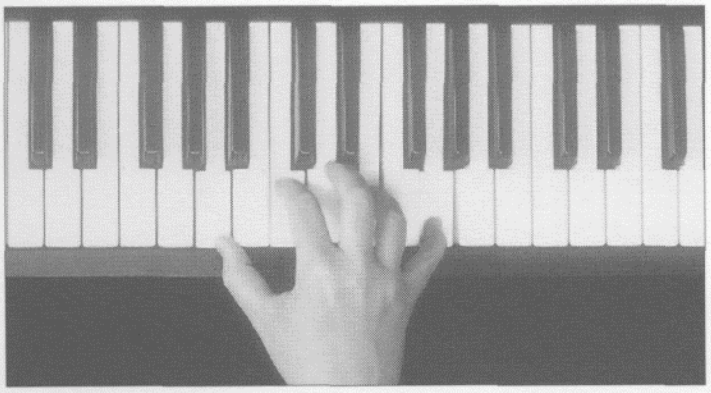


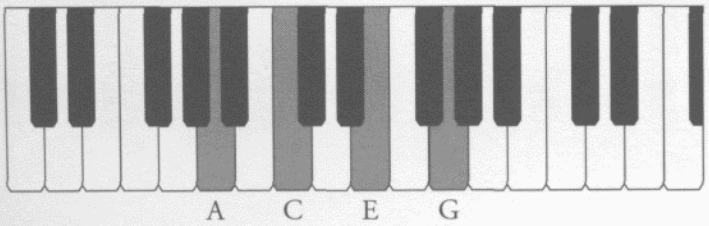
C6 *second inversion*



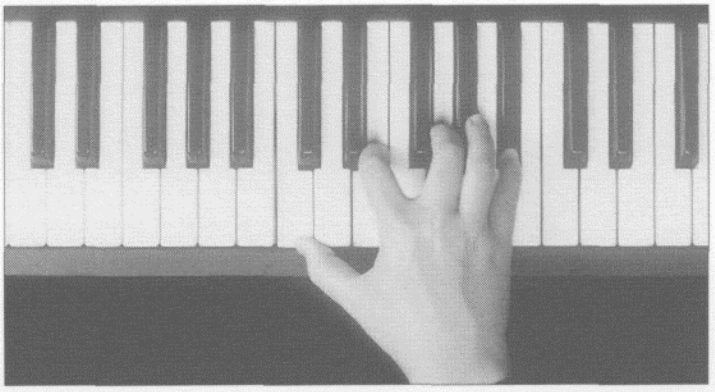


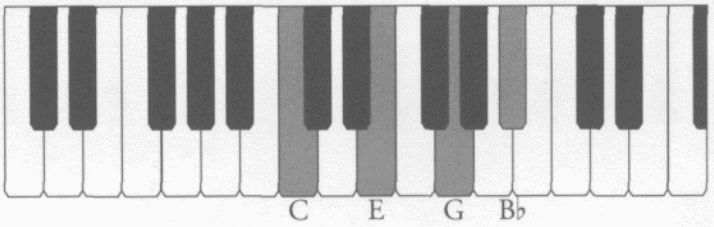
C6 *third inversion*



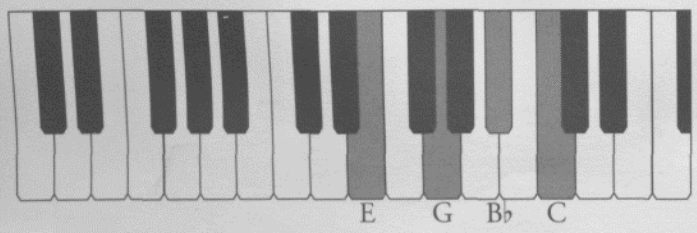


C7

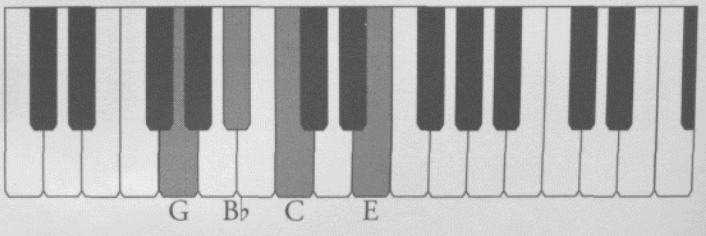




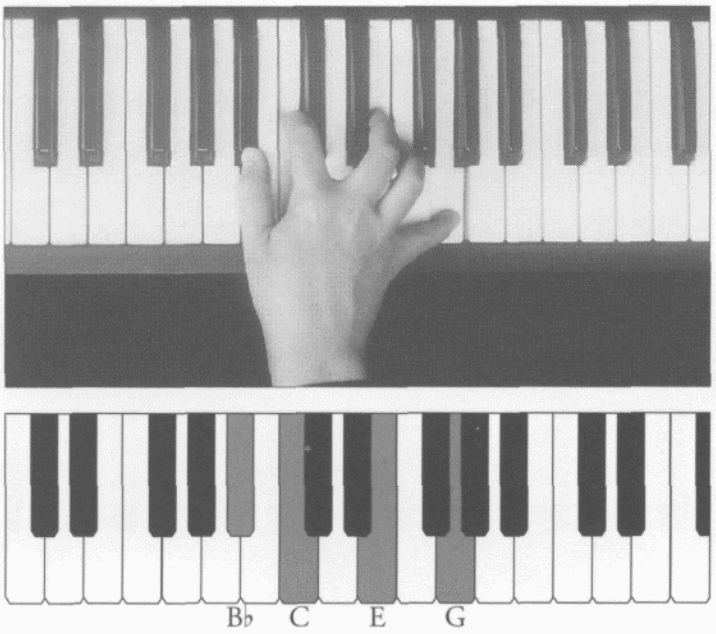
C7 *first inversion*



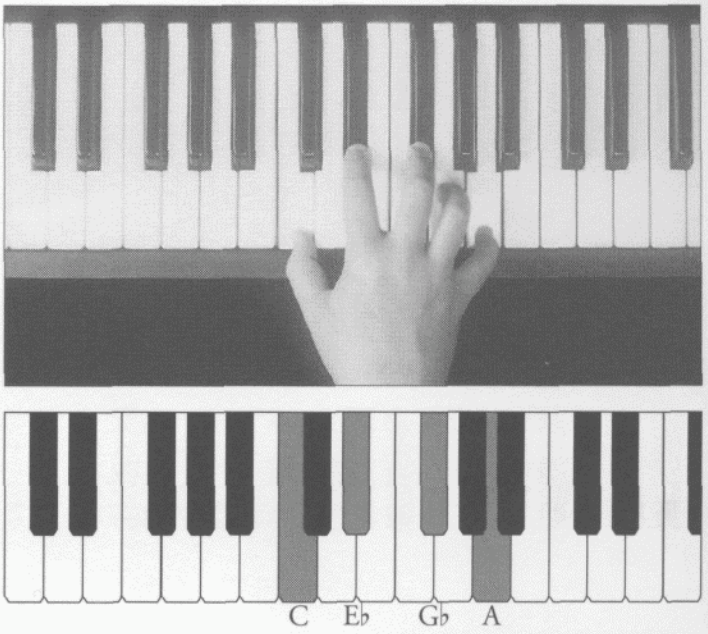
C7 *second inversion*



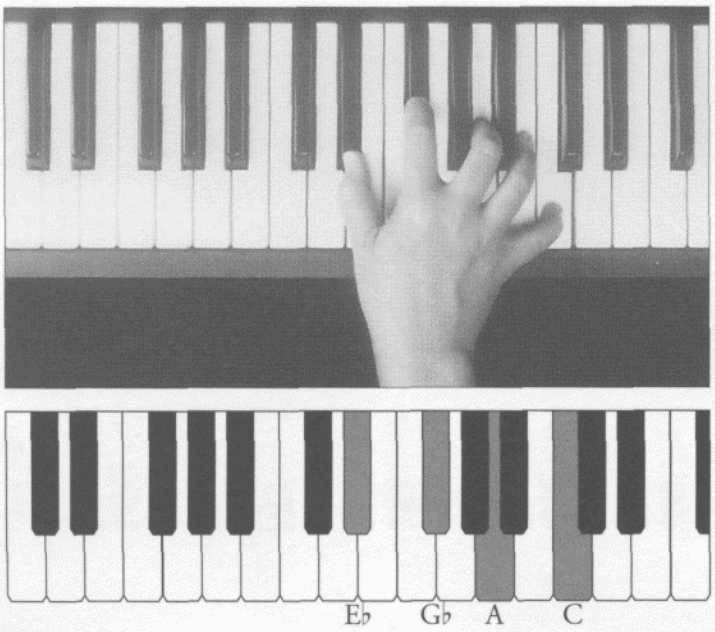
C7 *third inversion*



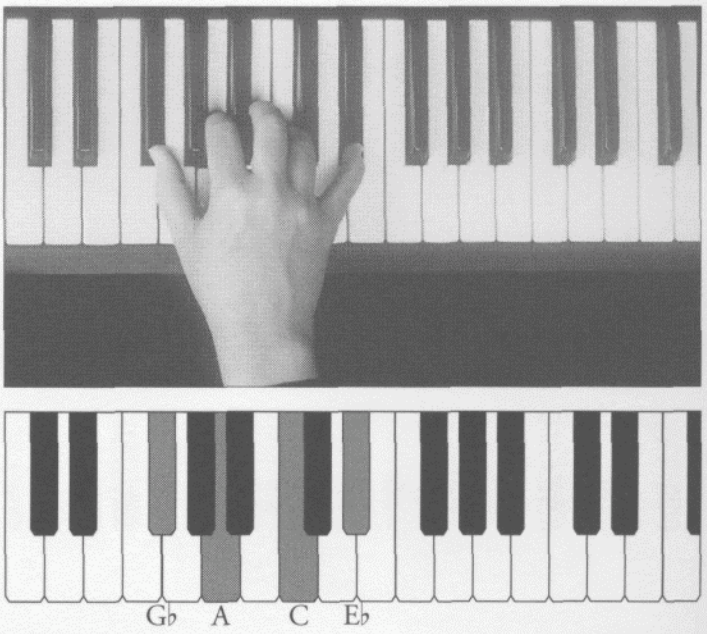
C°7



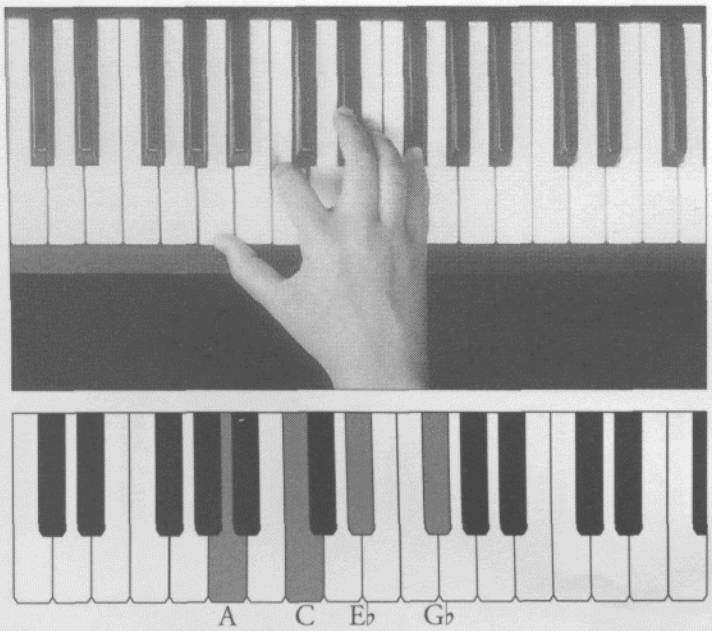
C°7 *first inversion*



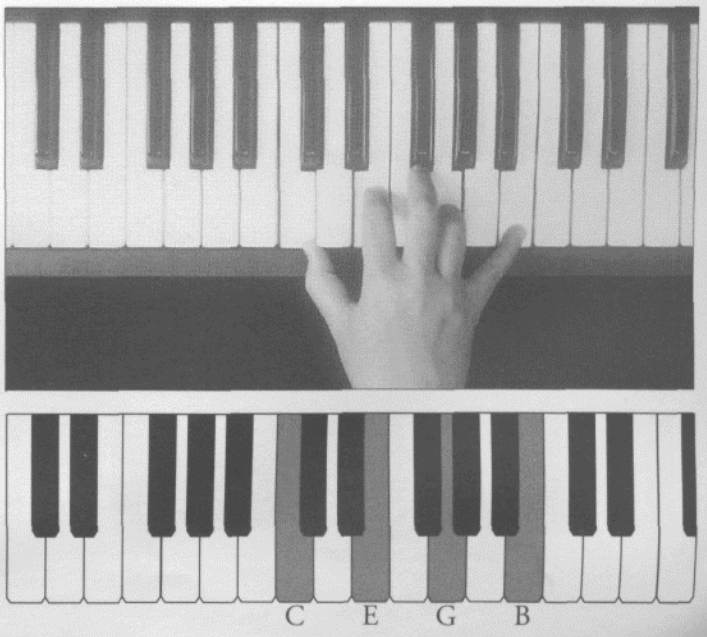
C°7 *second inversion*



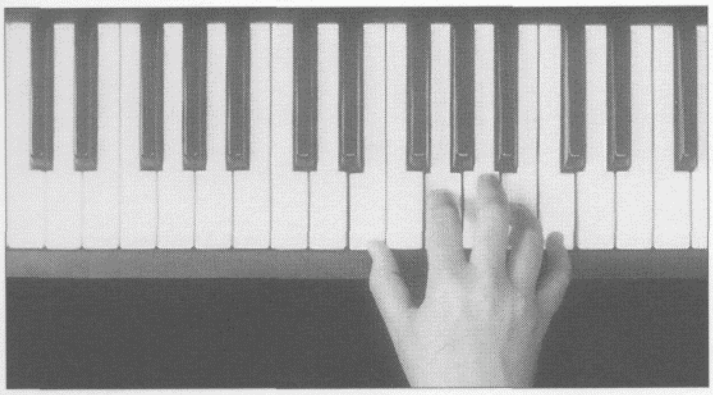
C°7 *third inversion*

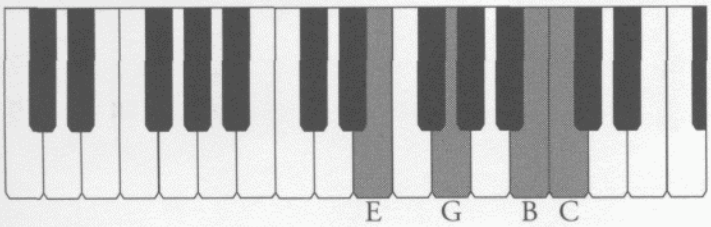


C major7

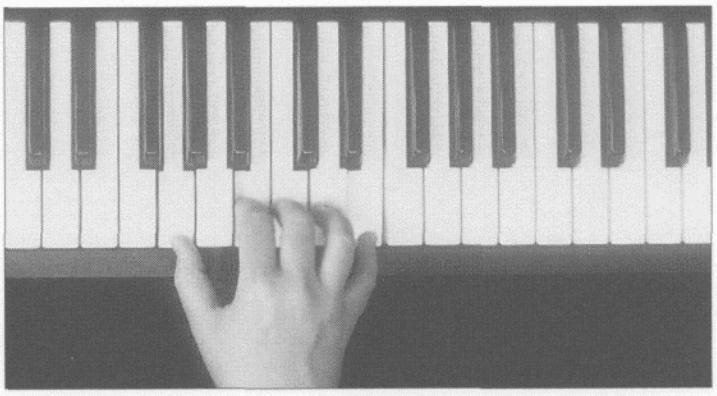


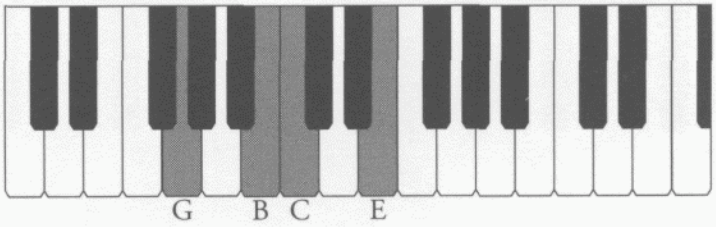
C major7 *first inversion*



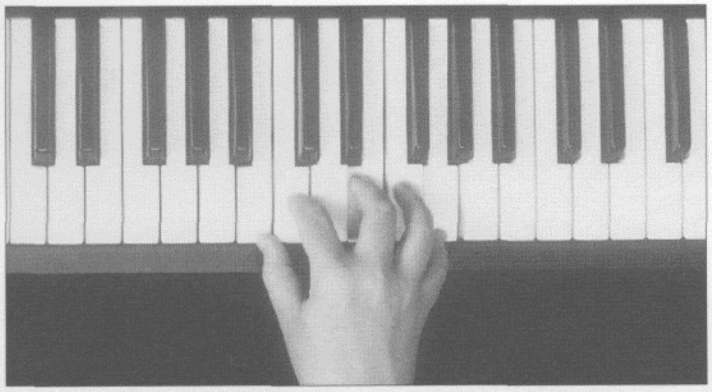


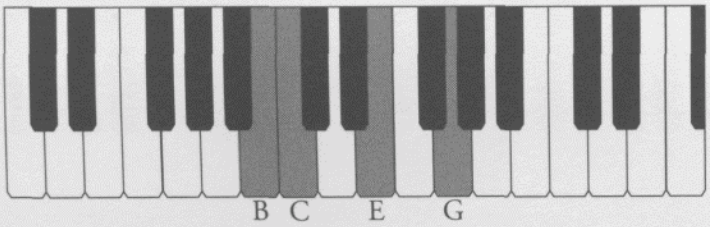
C major7 *second inversion*



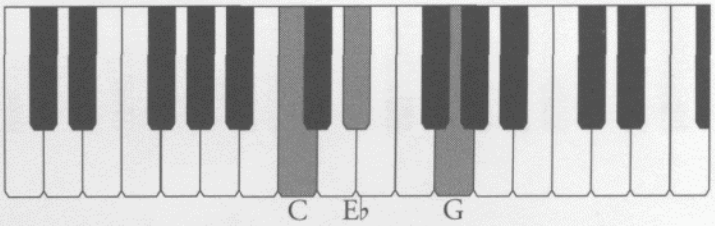


C major7 *third inversion*

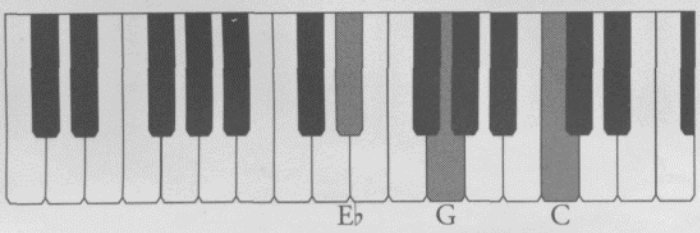




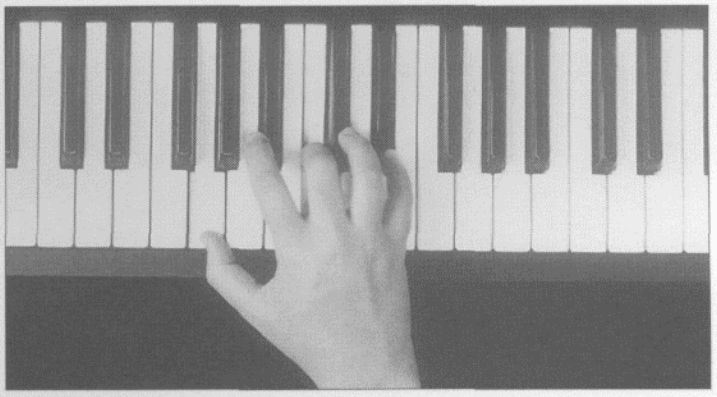
C minor

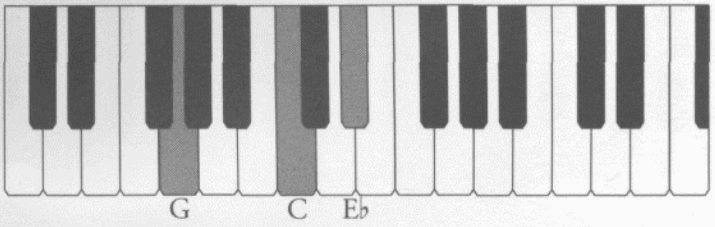


C minor *first inversion*

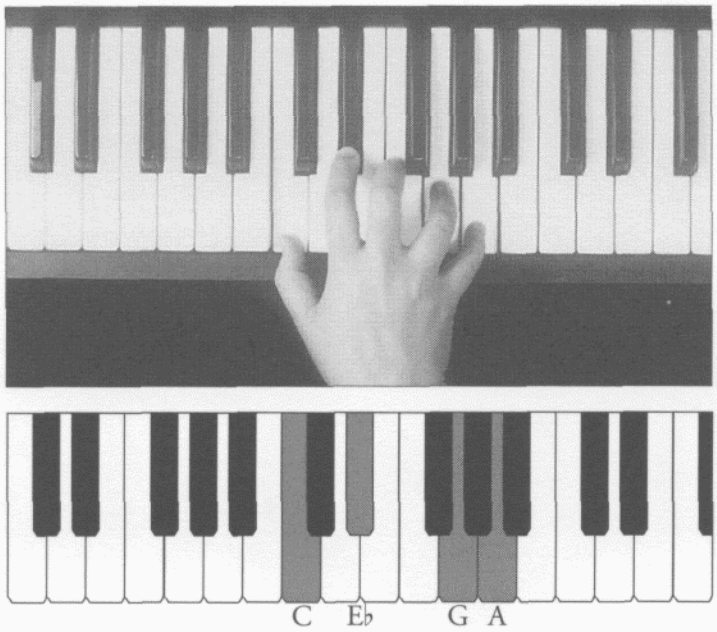


C minor *second inversion*

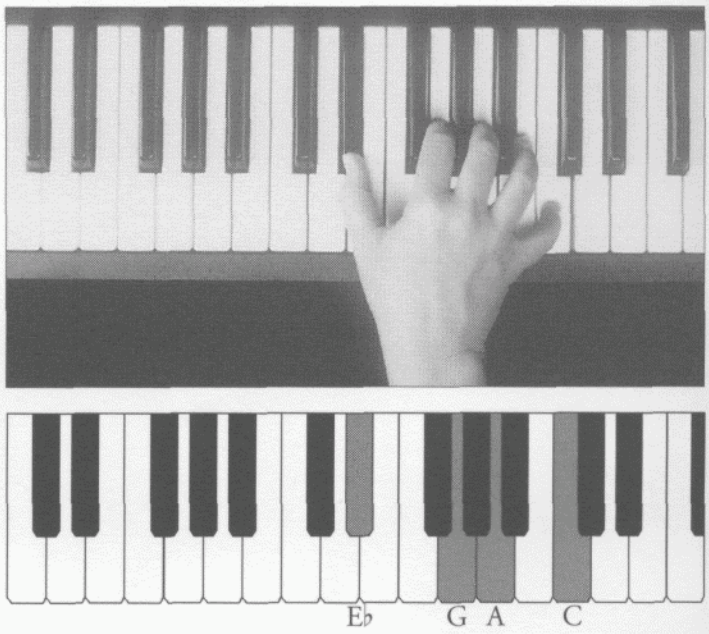




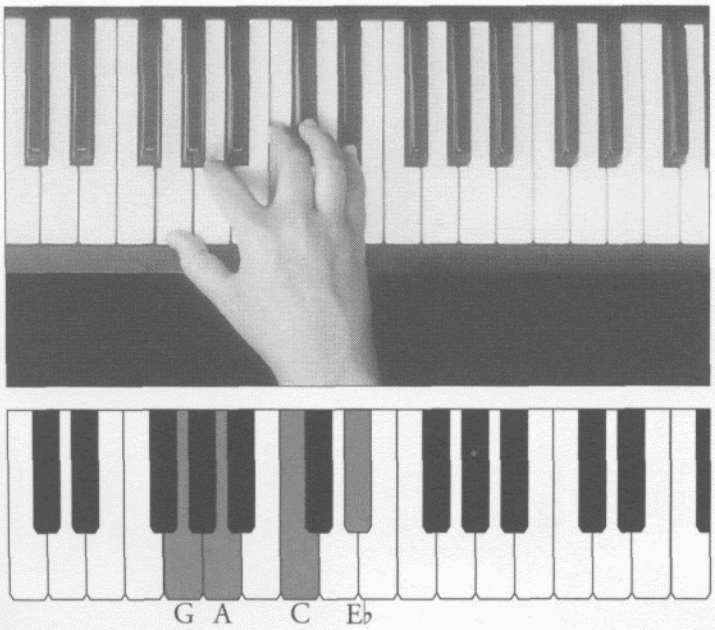
C minor6



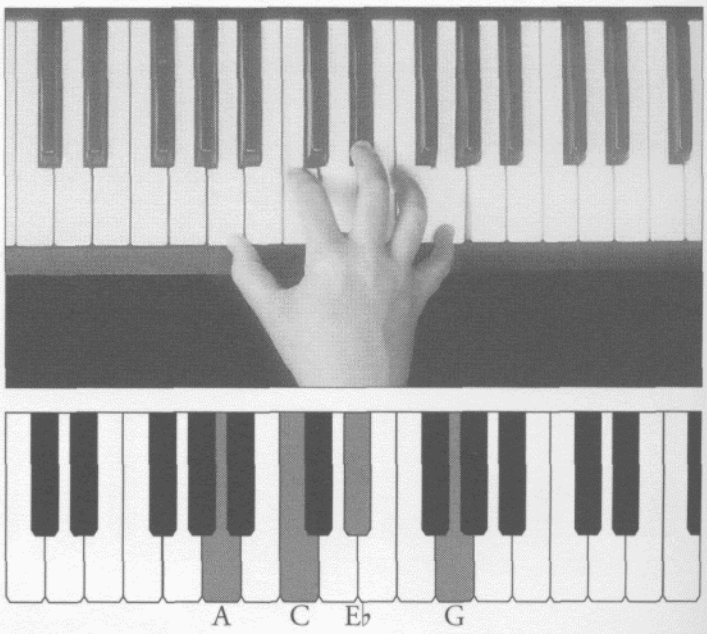
C minor6 *first inversion*



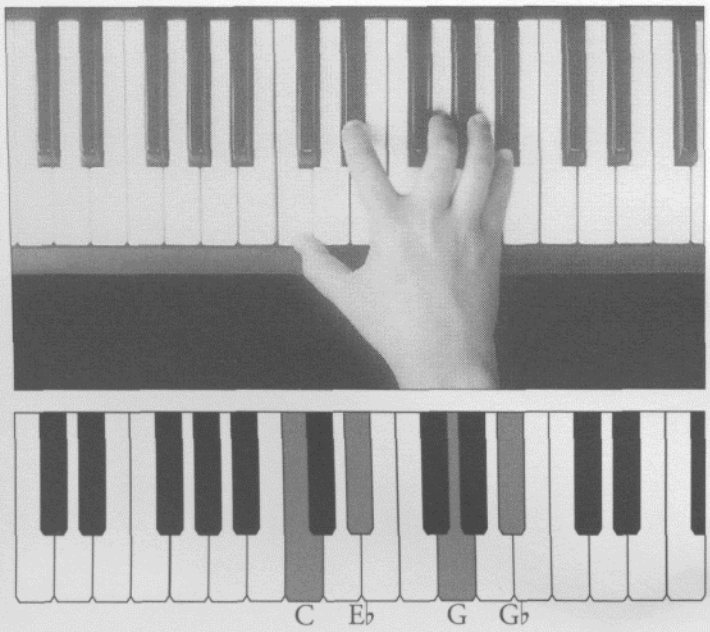
C minor6 *second inversion*



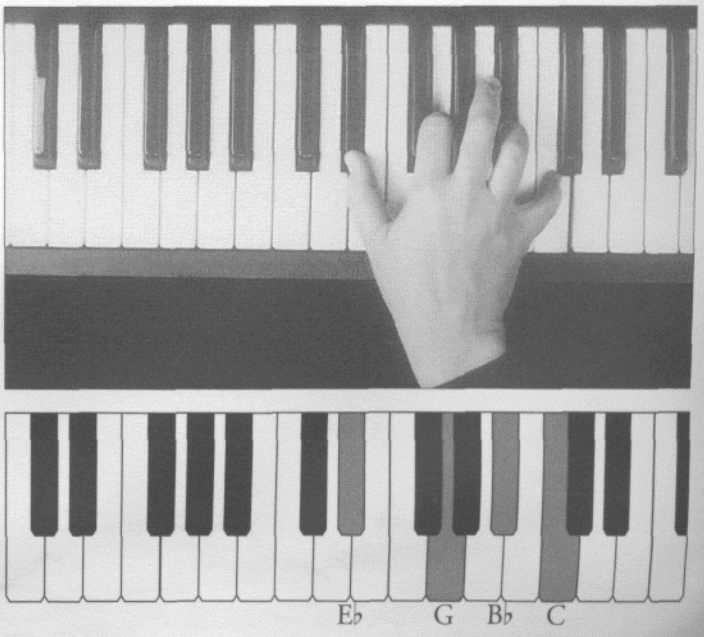
C minor6 *third inversion*



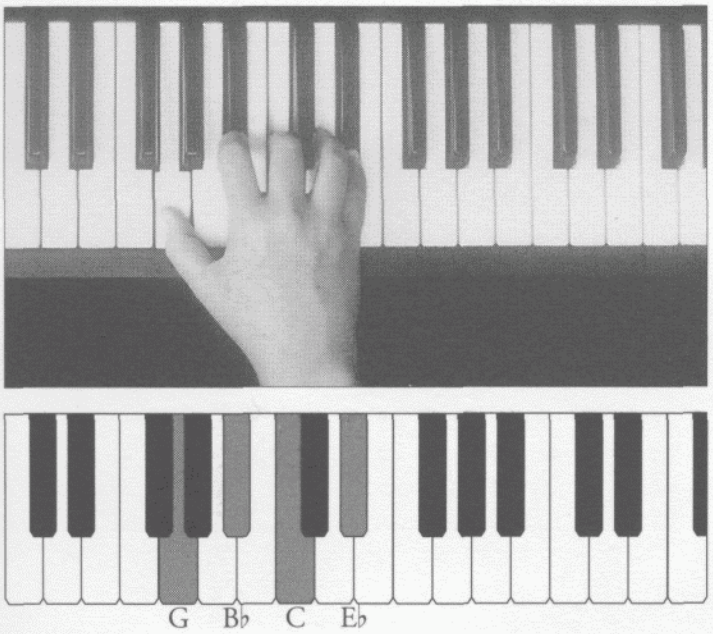
C minor7



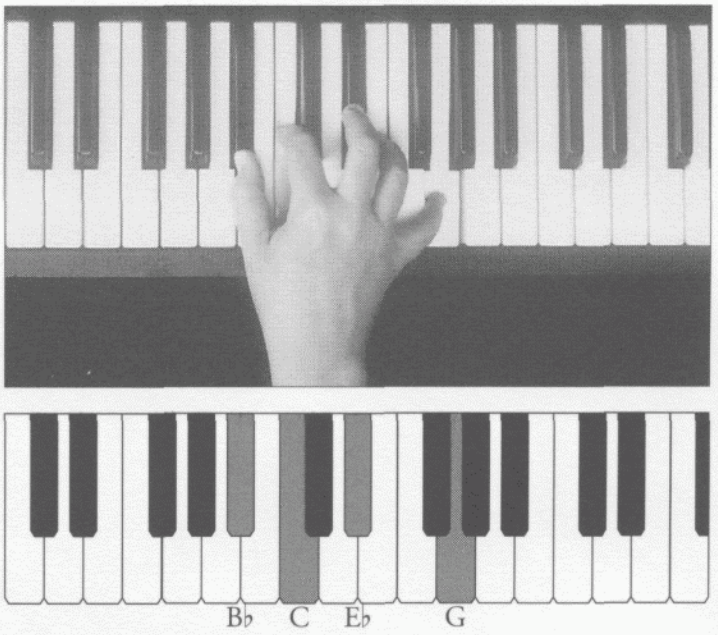
C minor7 *first inversion*



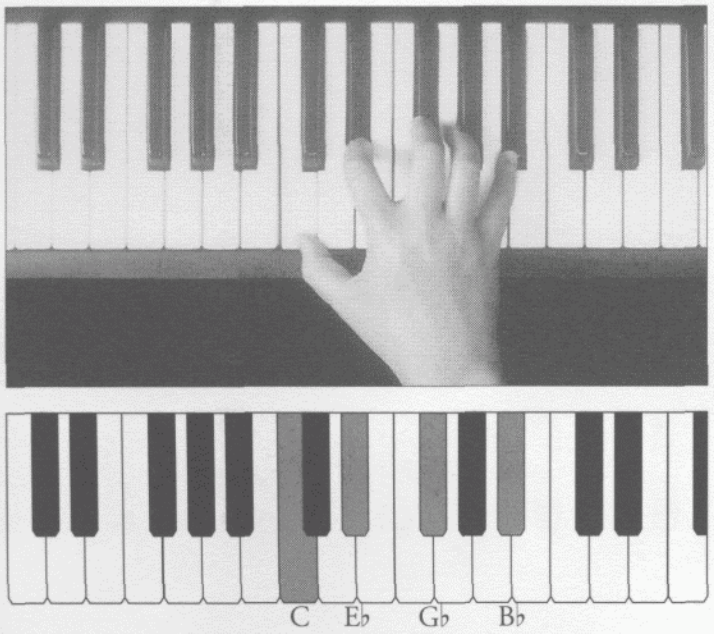
C minor7 *second inversion*



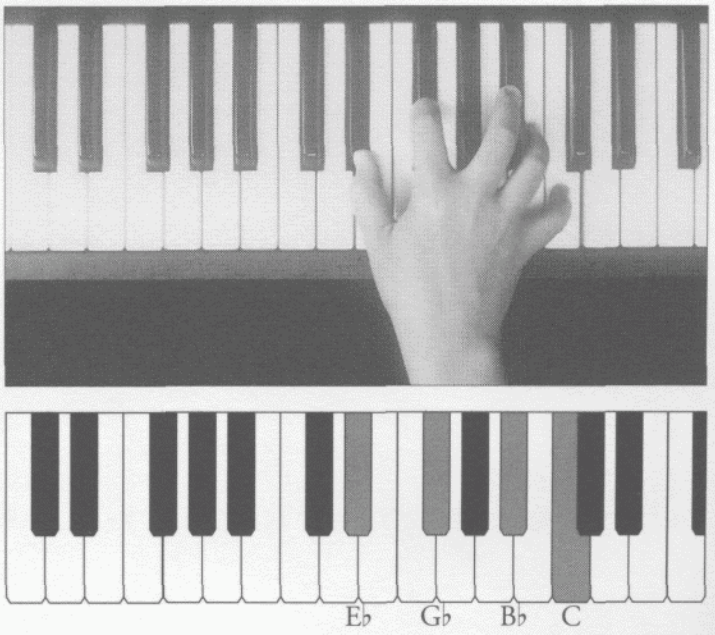
C minor7 *third inversion*



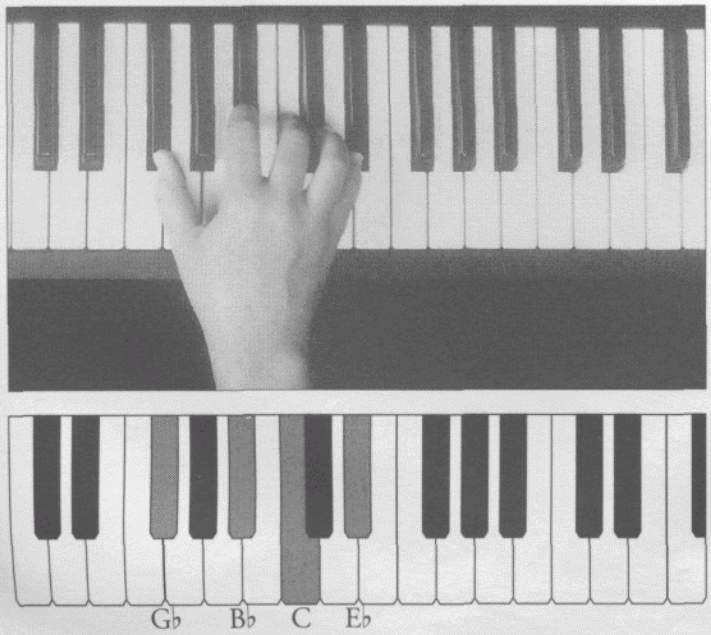
C minor7♭5



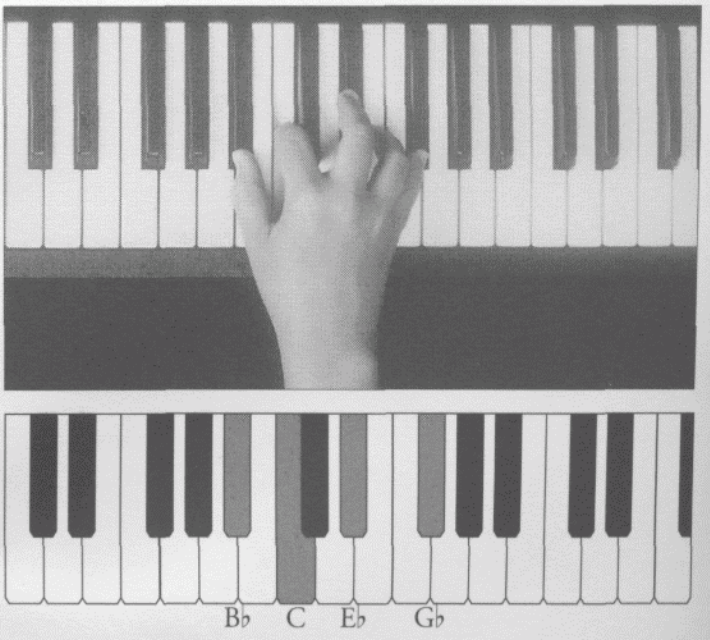
C minor7♭5 *first inversion*



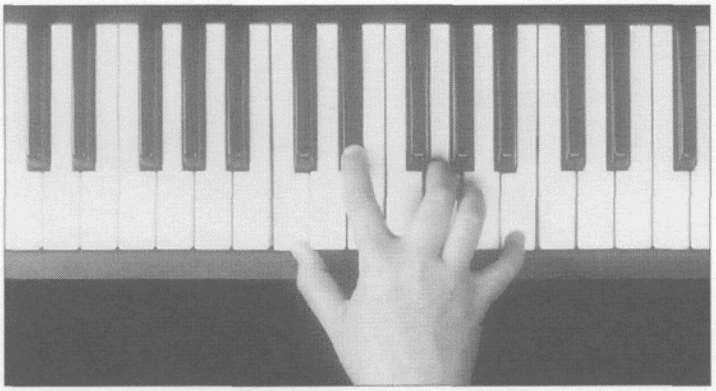
C minor7♭5 *second inversion*

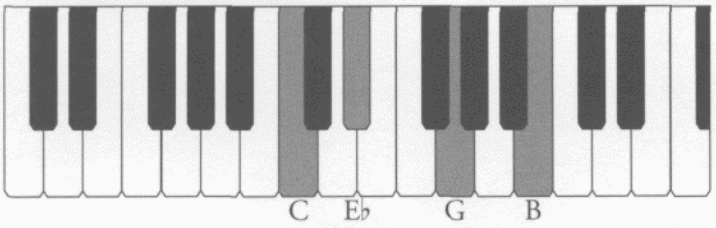


C minor7♭5 *third inversion*

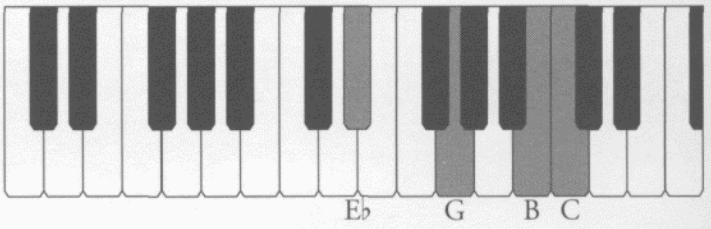


C minor (major7)

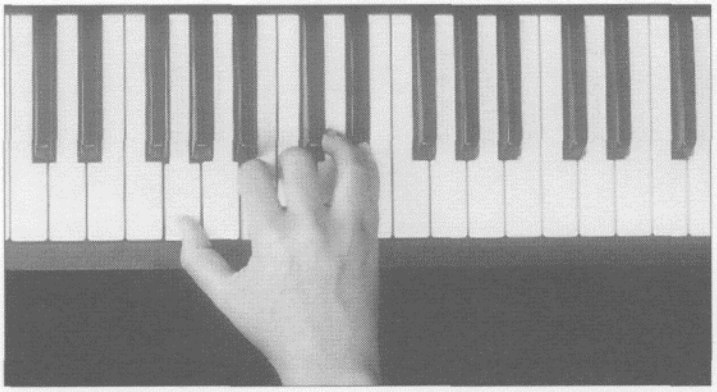


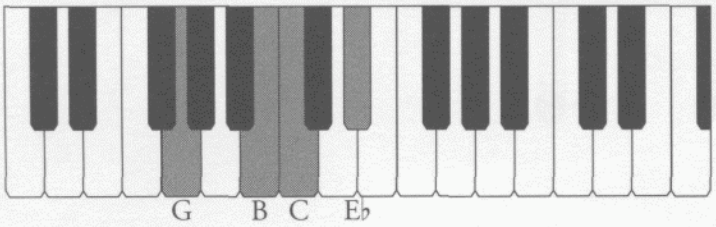


C minor (major7) *first inversion*

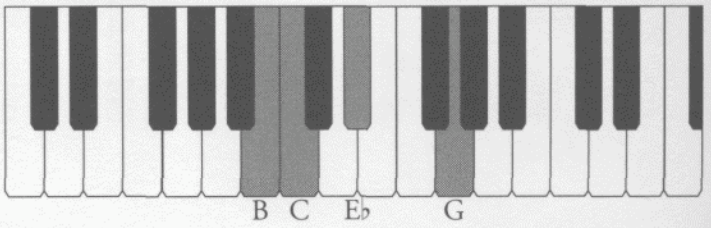


C minor (major7) *second inversion*



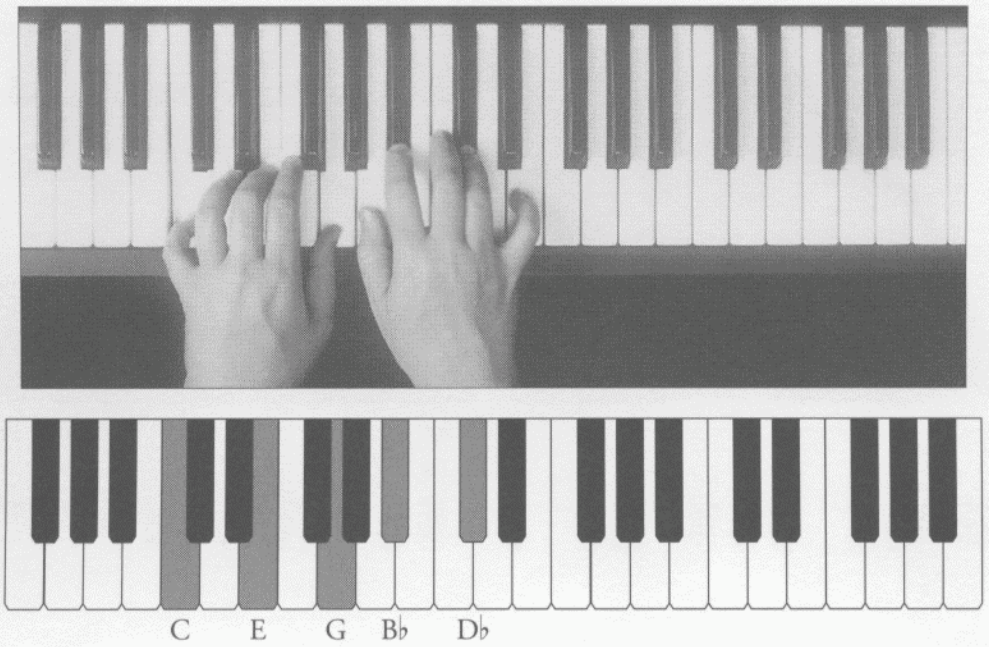


C minor (major7) *third inversion*

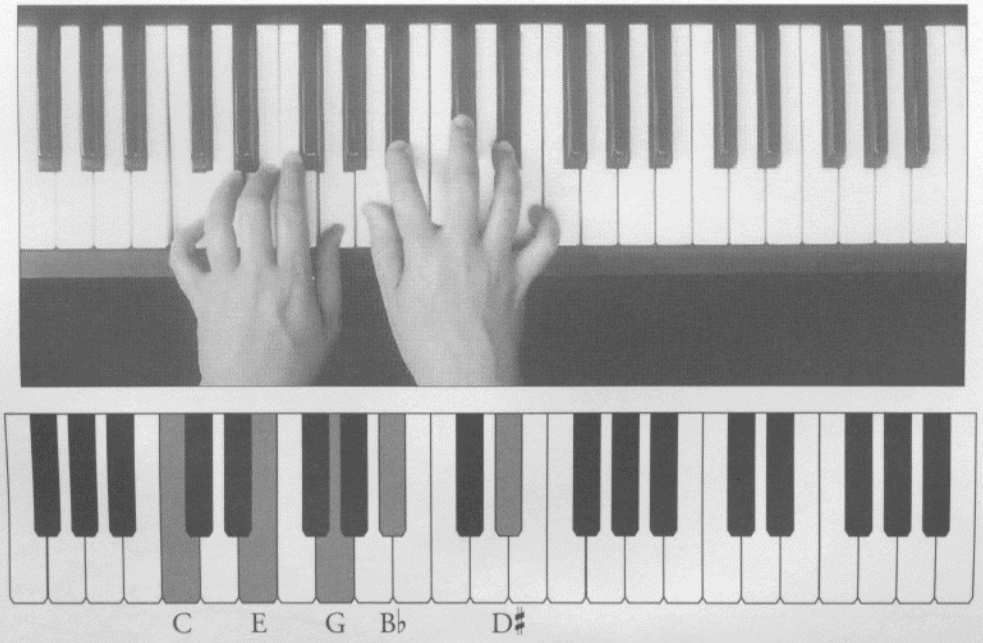


C chords
using both hands

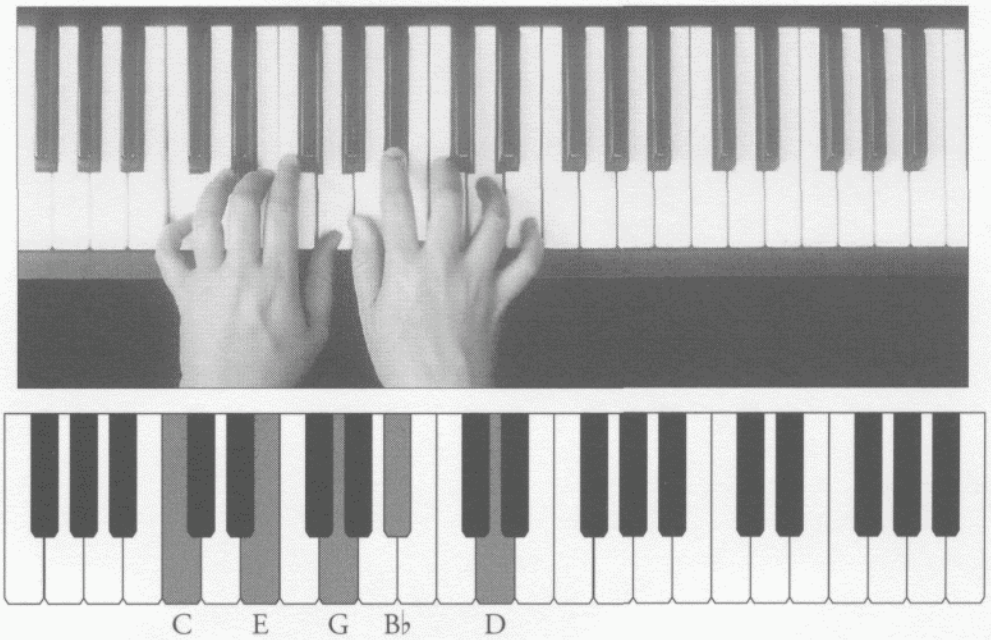
C7♭9



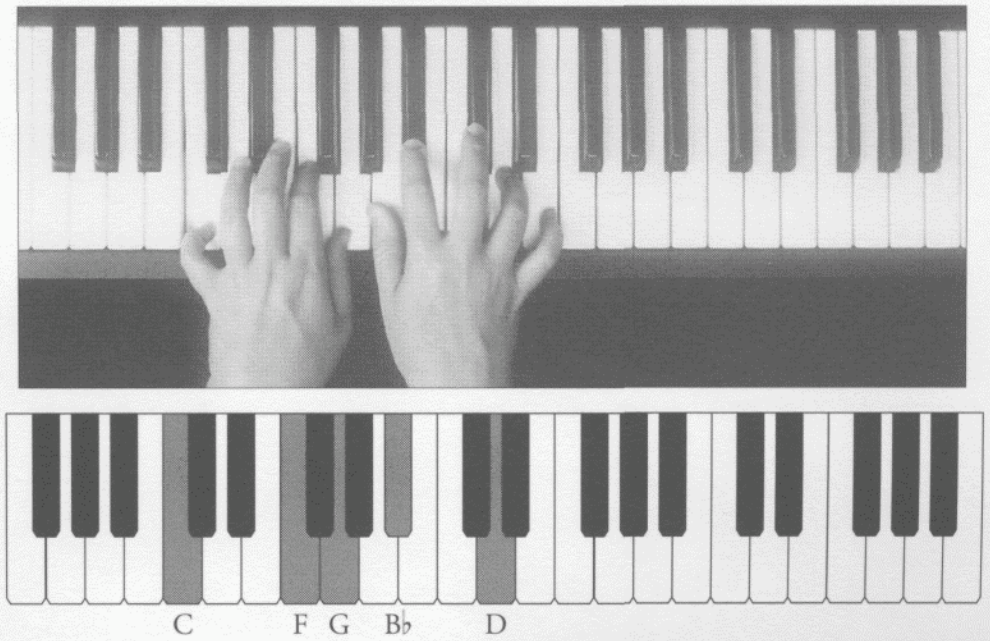
C7♯9



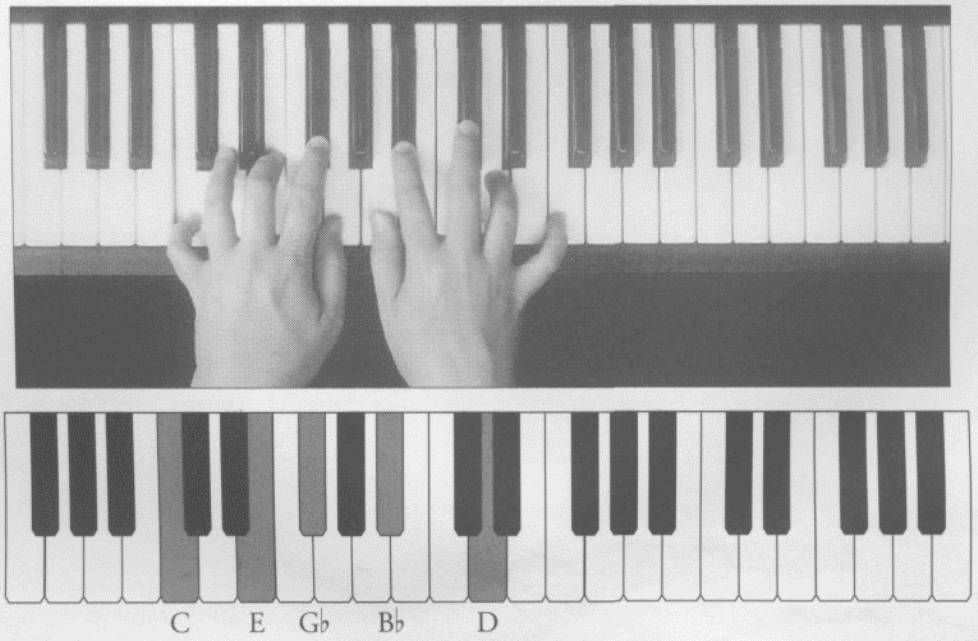
C9



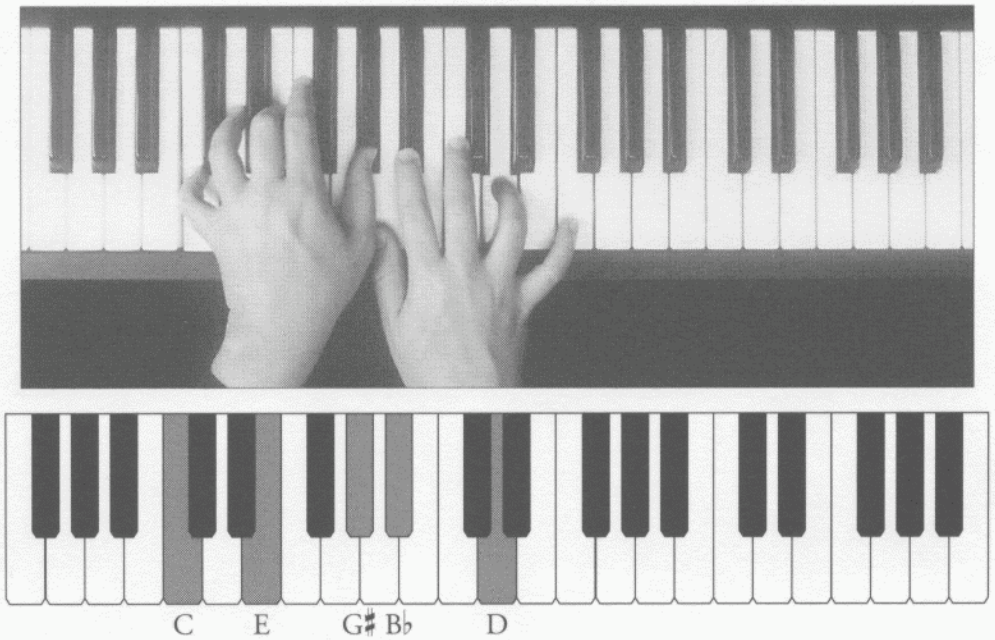
C9sus4



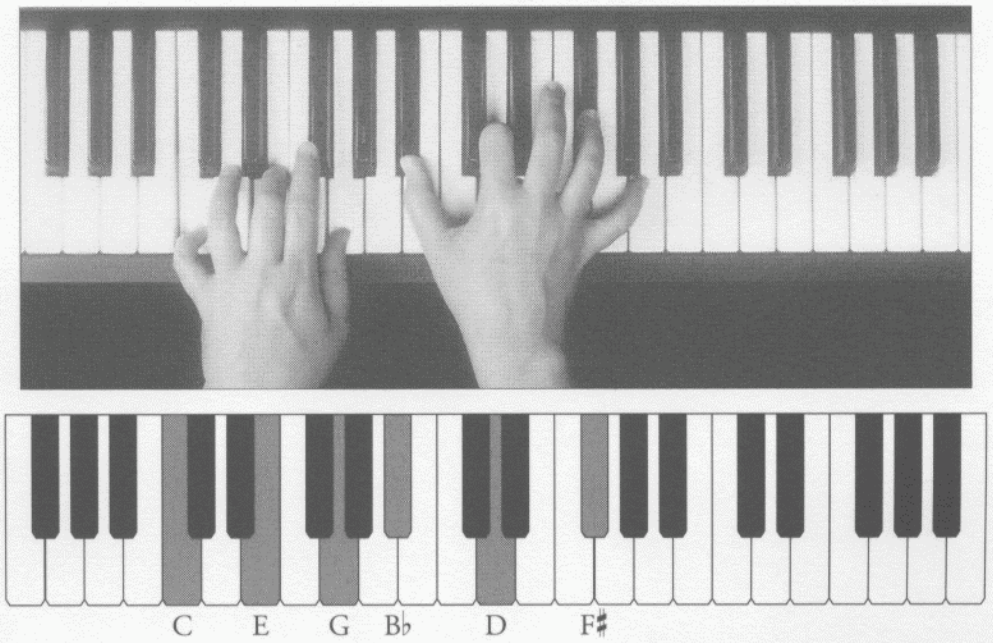
C9♭5



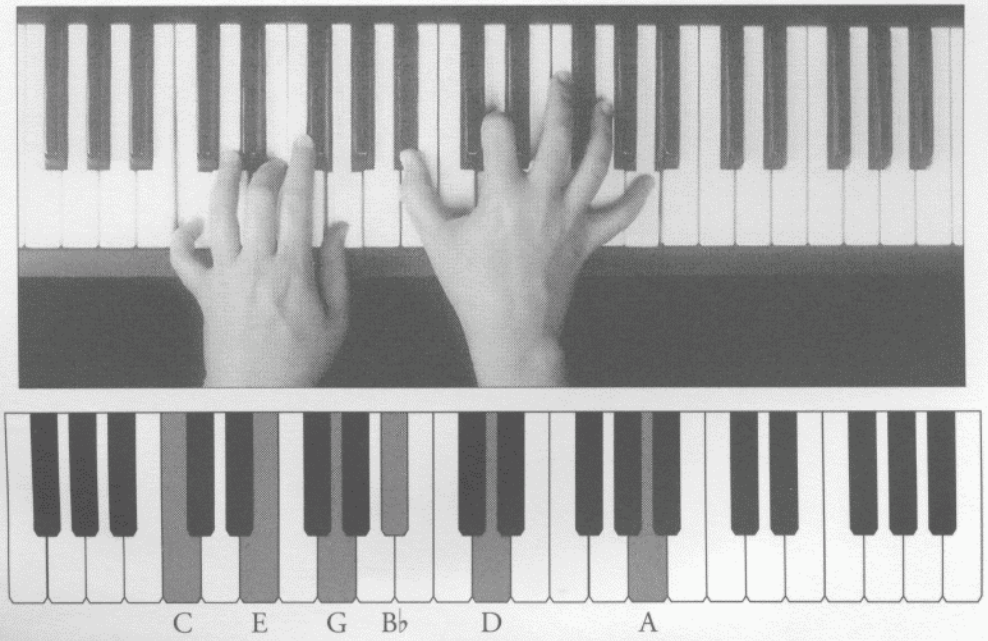
C9♯5



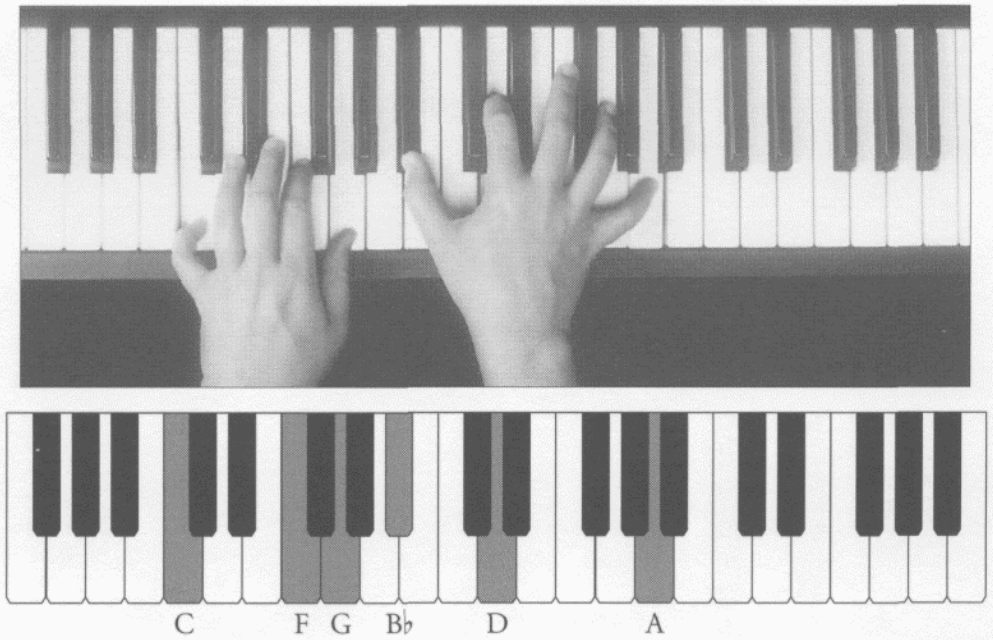
C9♯11



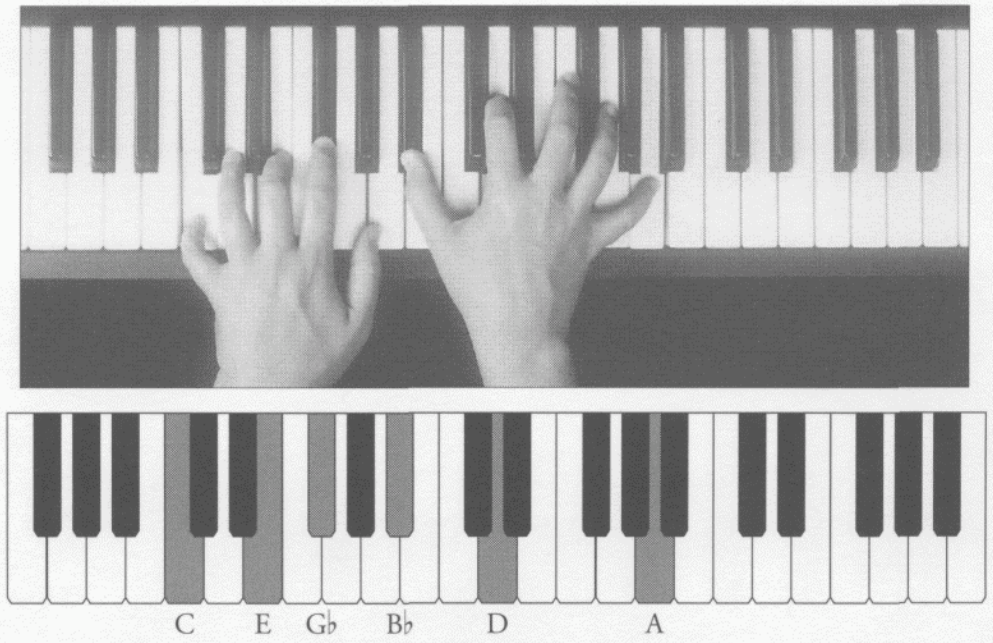
C13



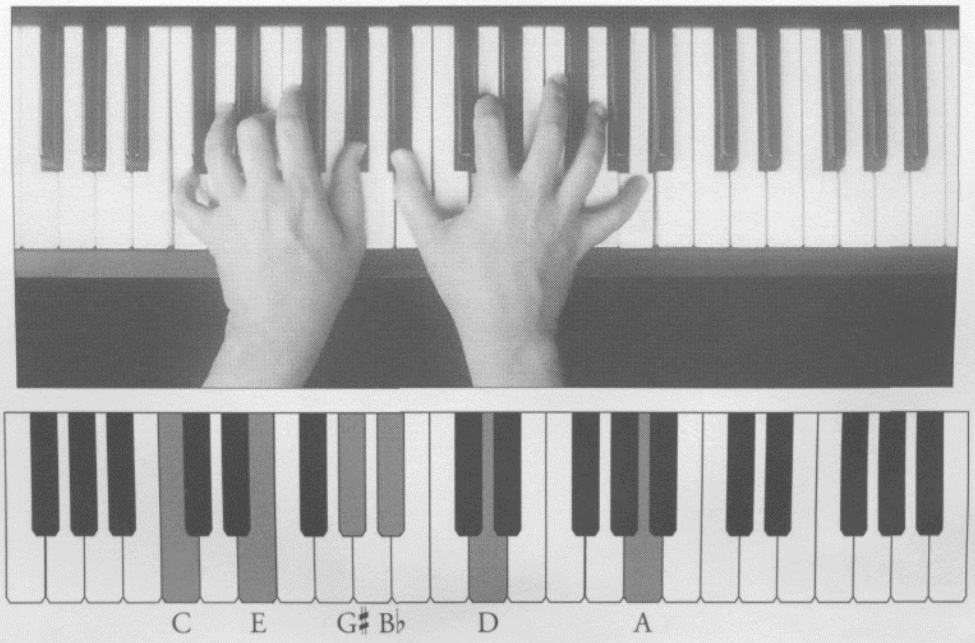
C13sus4



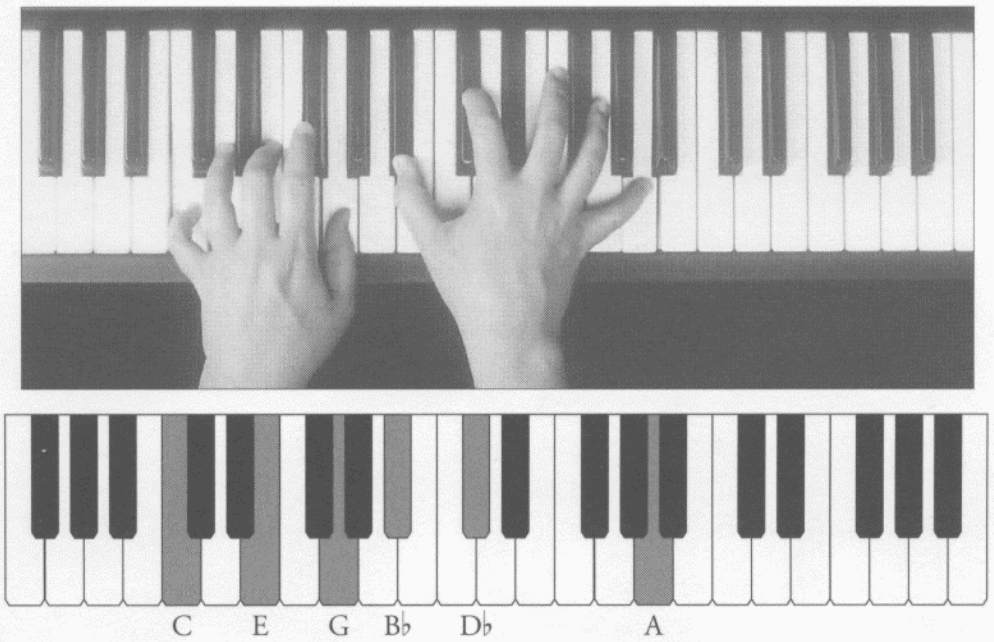
C13♭5



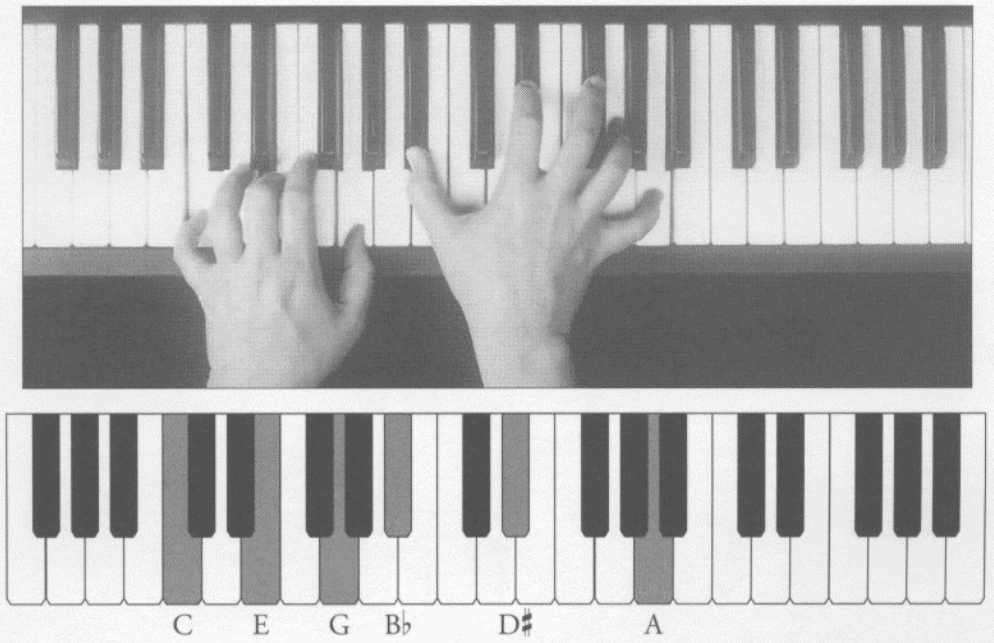
C13♯5



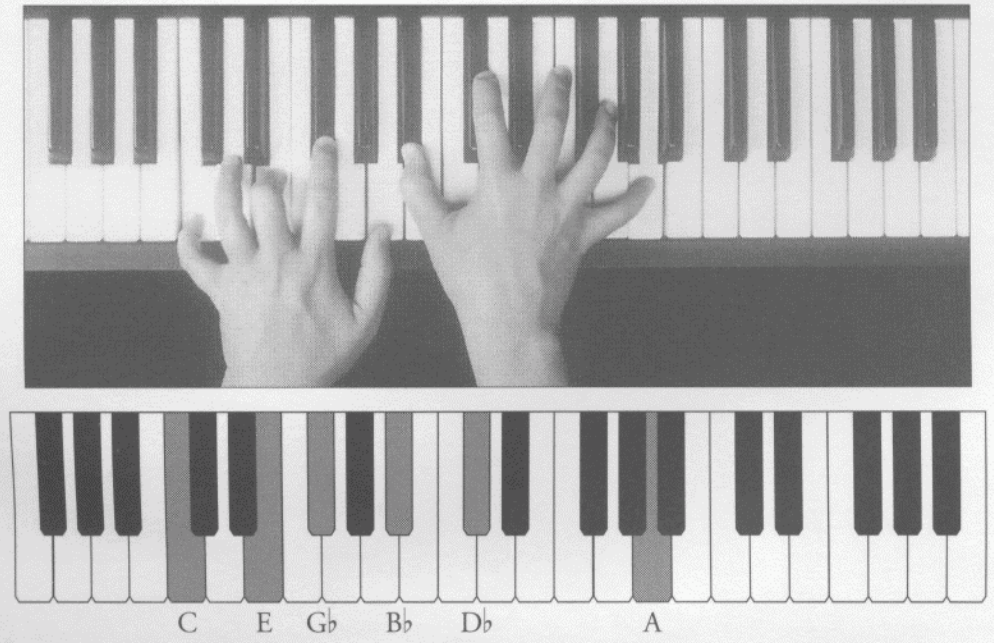
C13♭9



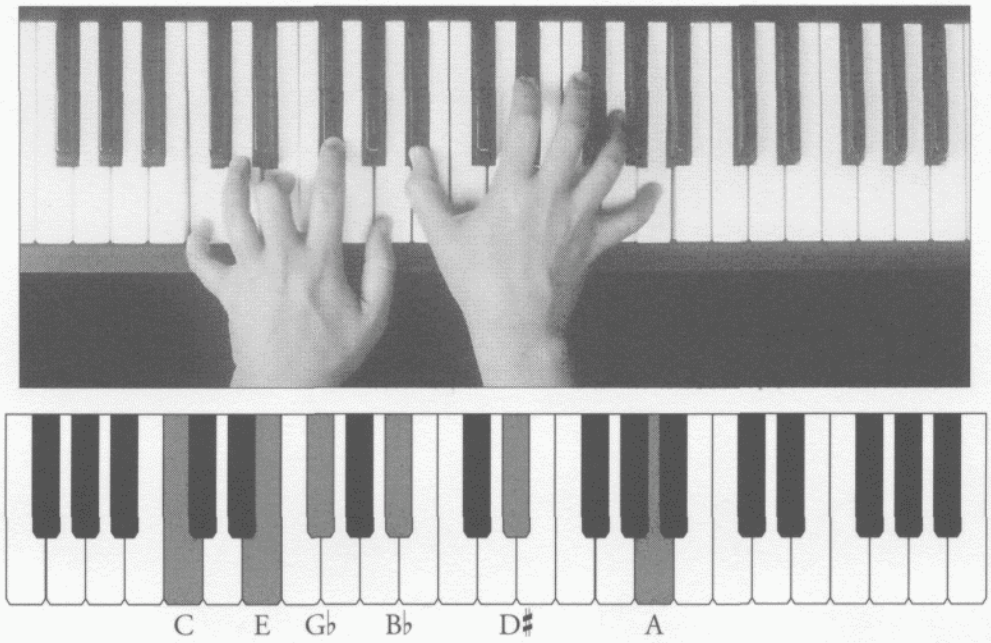
C13♯9



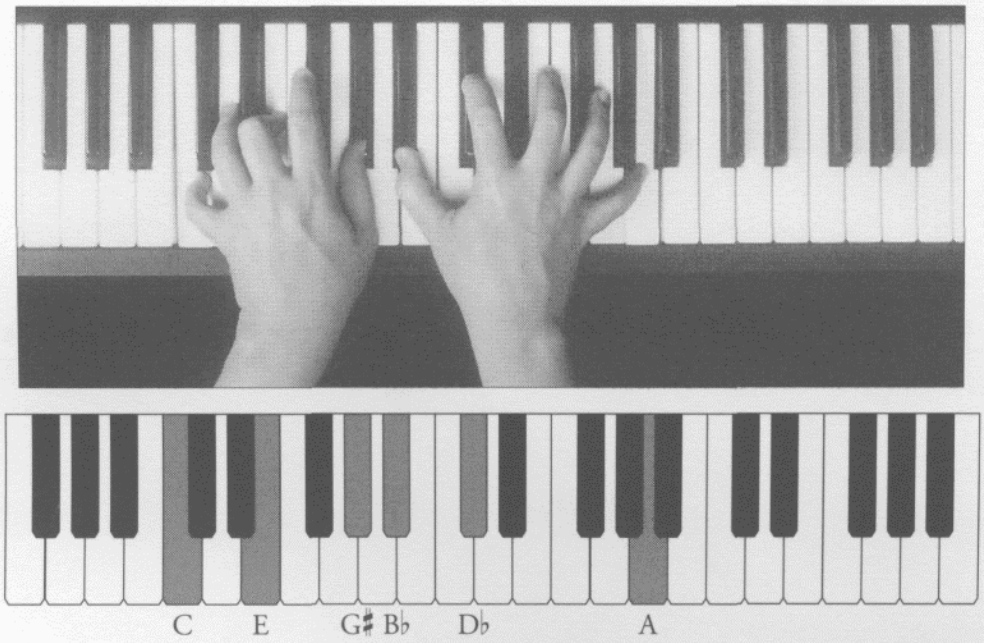
C13♭5♭9



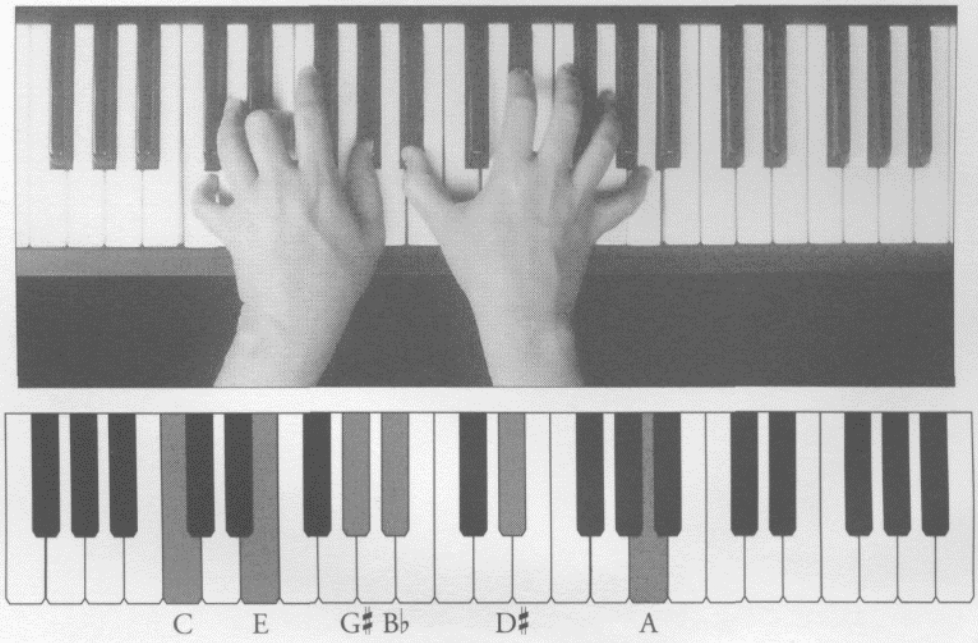
C13♭5♯9



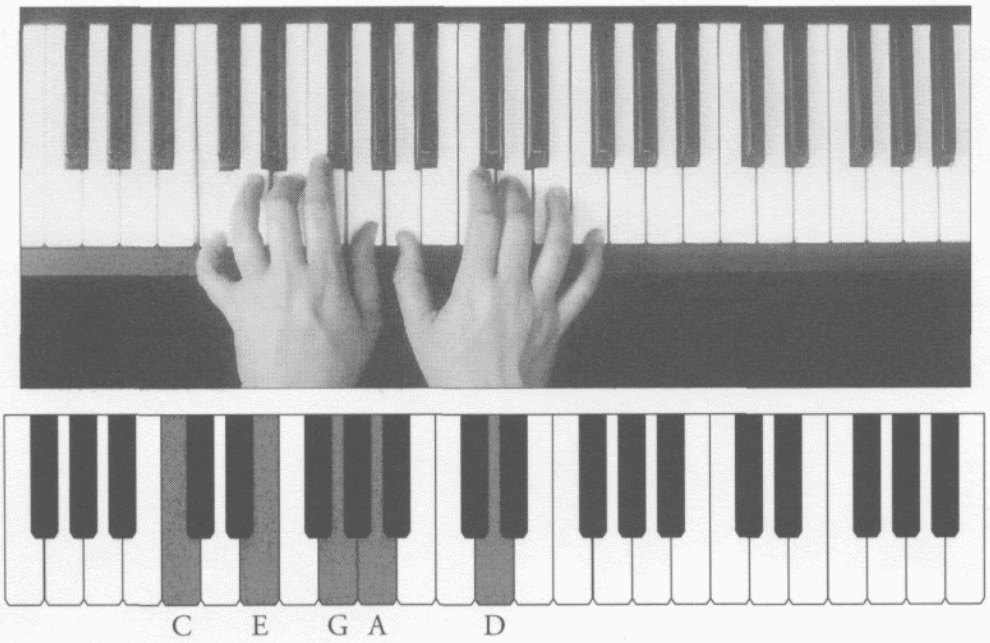
C13♯5♭9



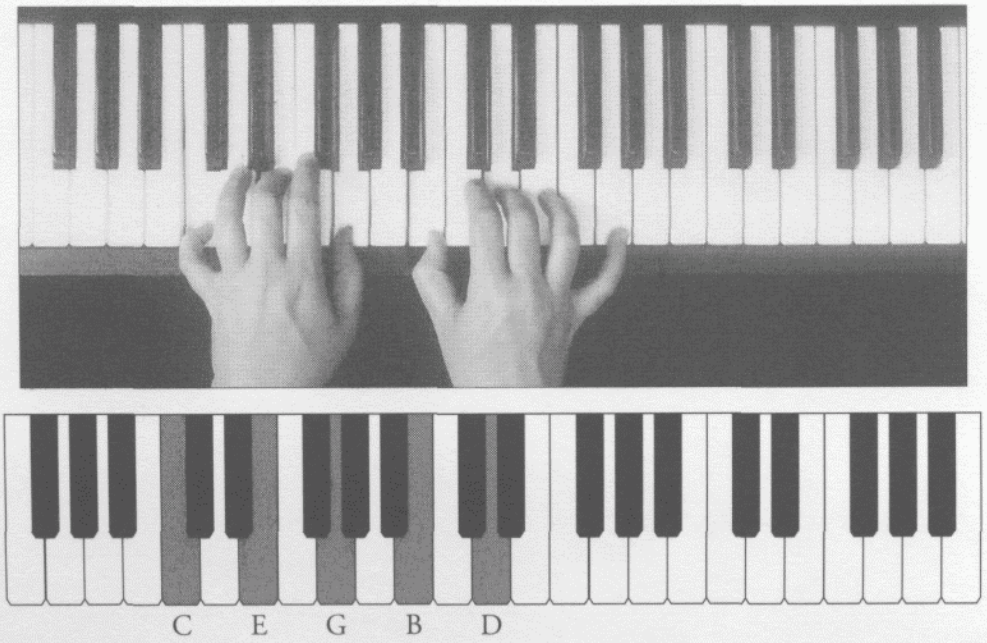
C13♯5♯9



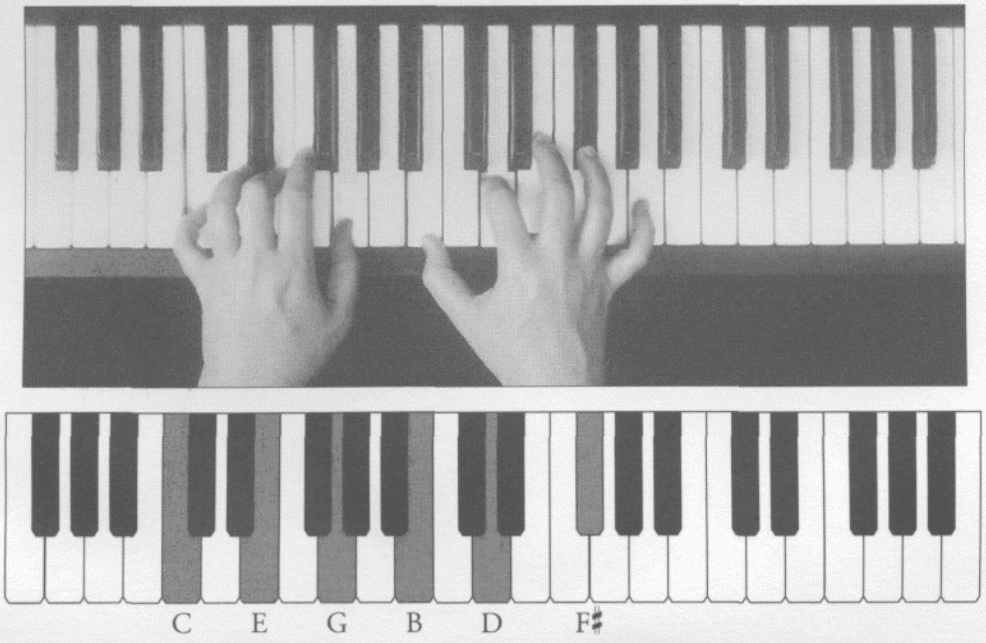
C 6/9



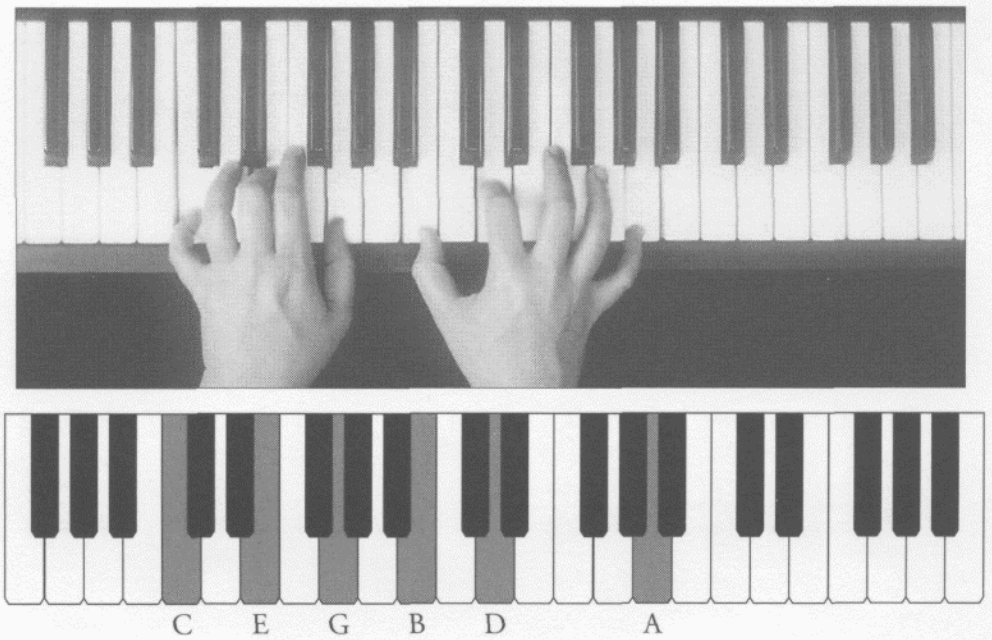
C major9



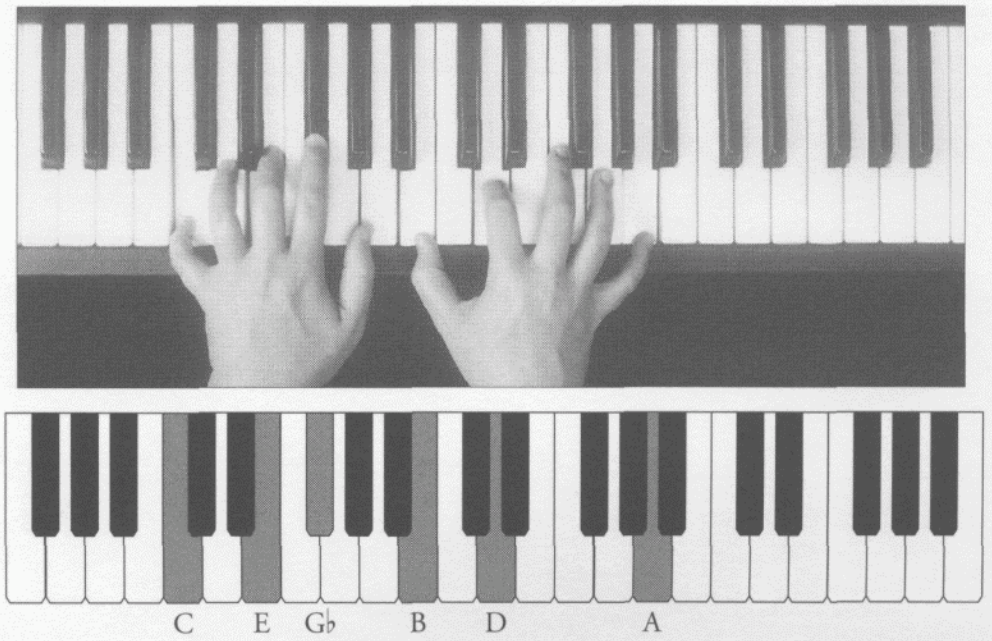
C major9♯11



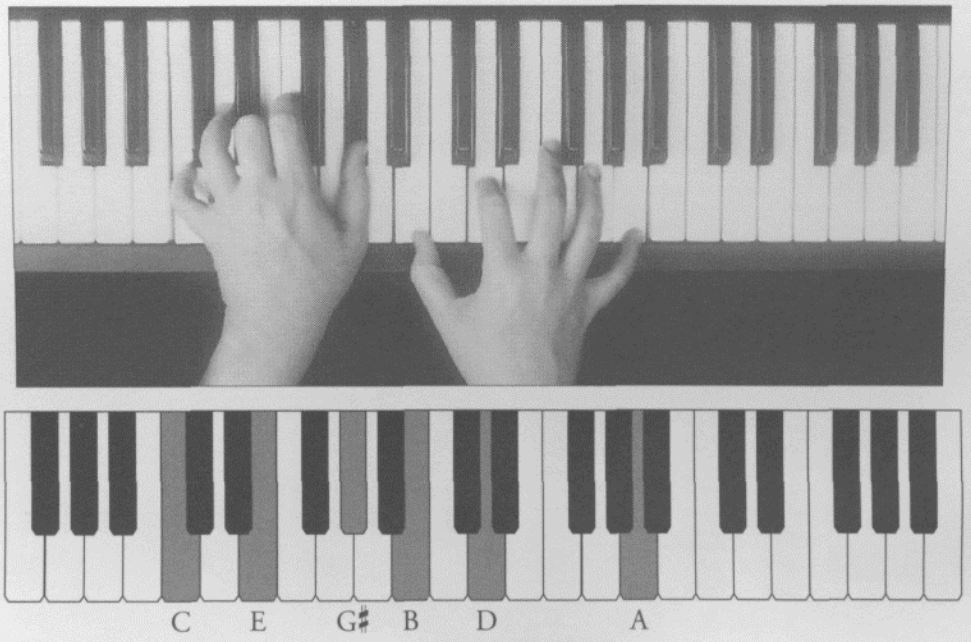
C major13



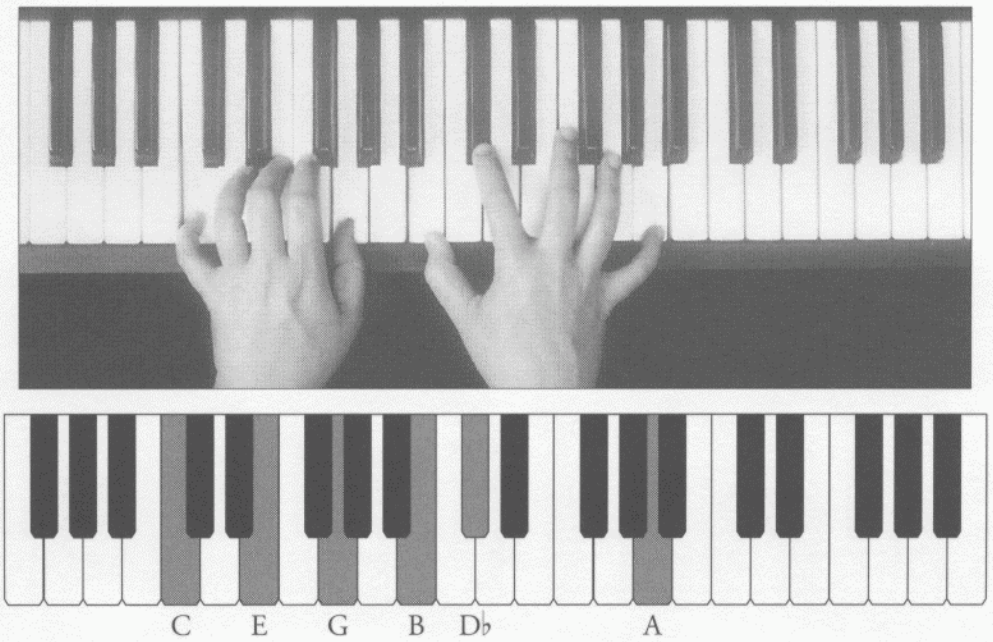
C major13♭5



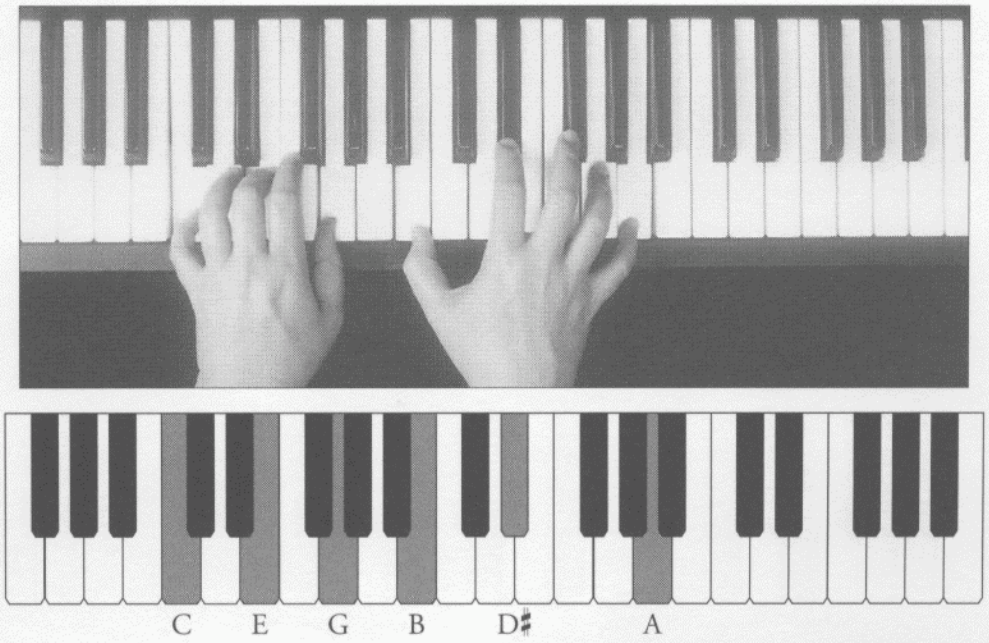
C major13♯5



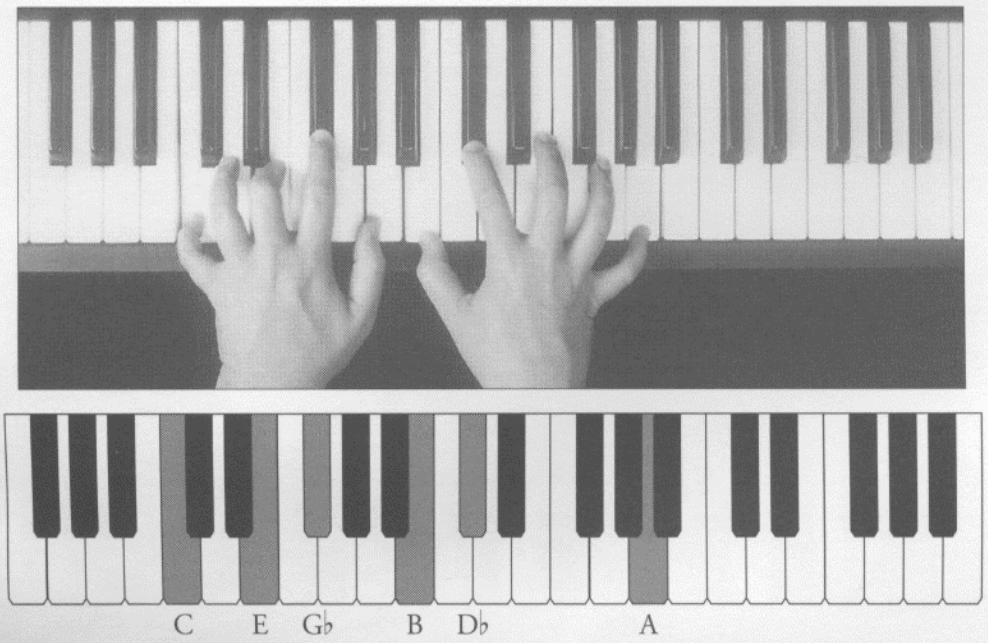
C major13♭9



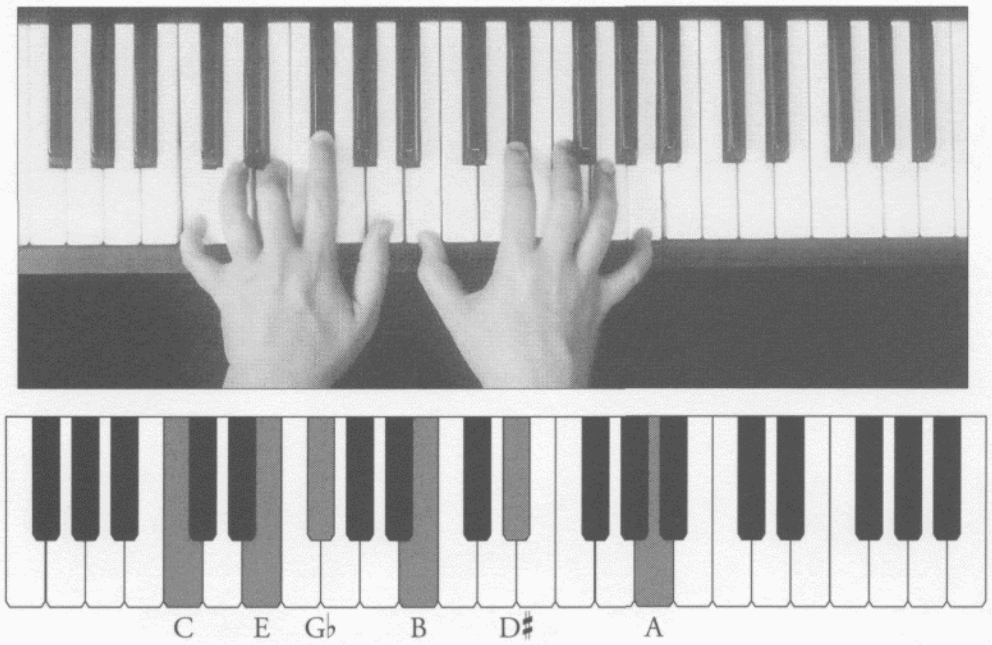
C major13♯9



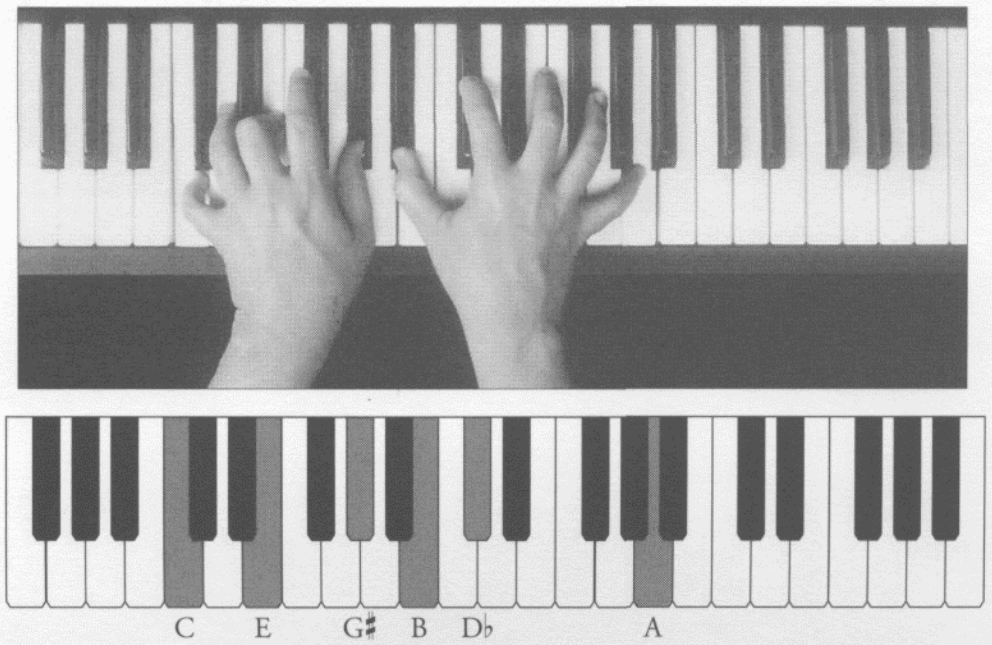
C major13♭5♭9



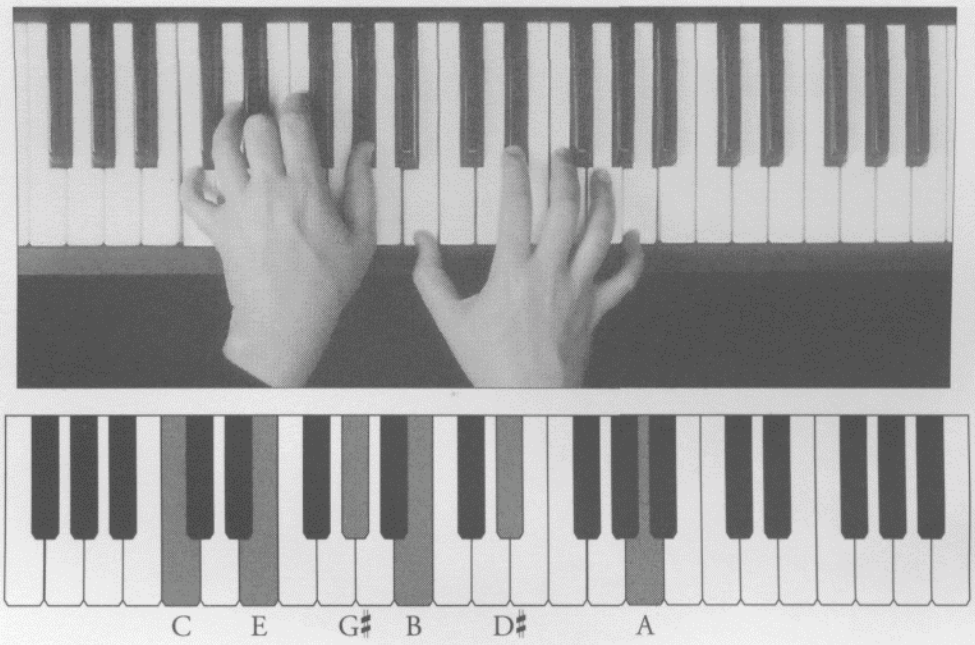
C major13♭5♯9



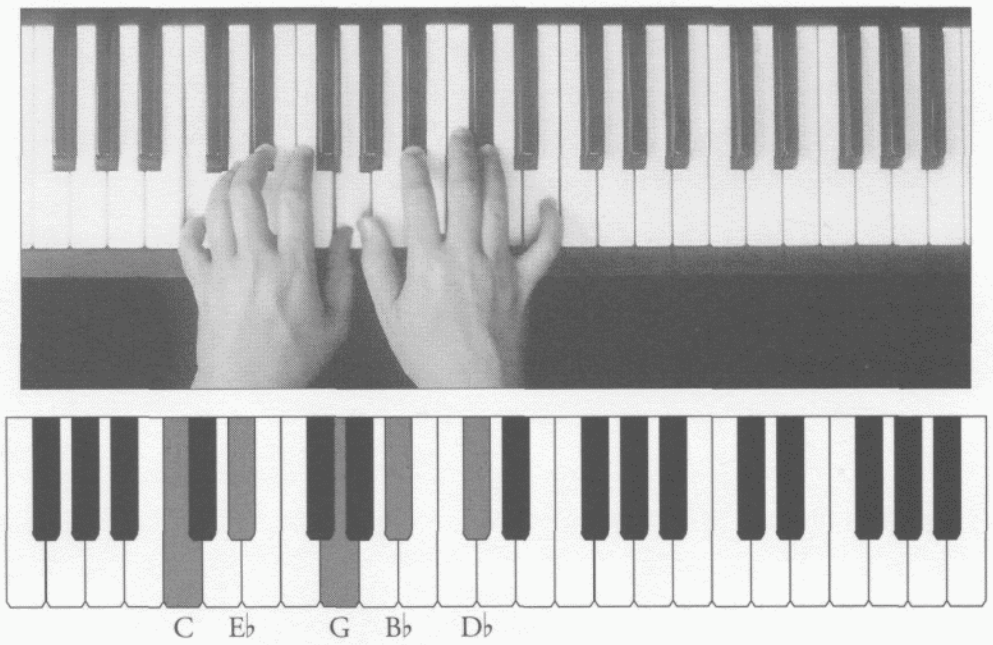
C major13♯5♭9



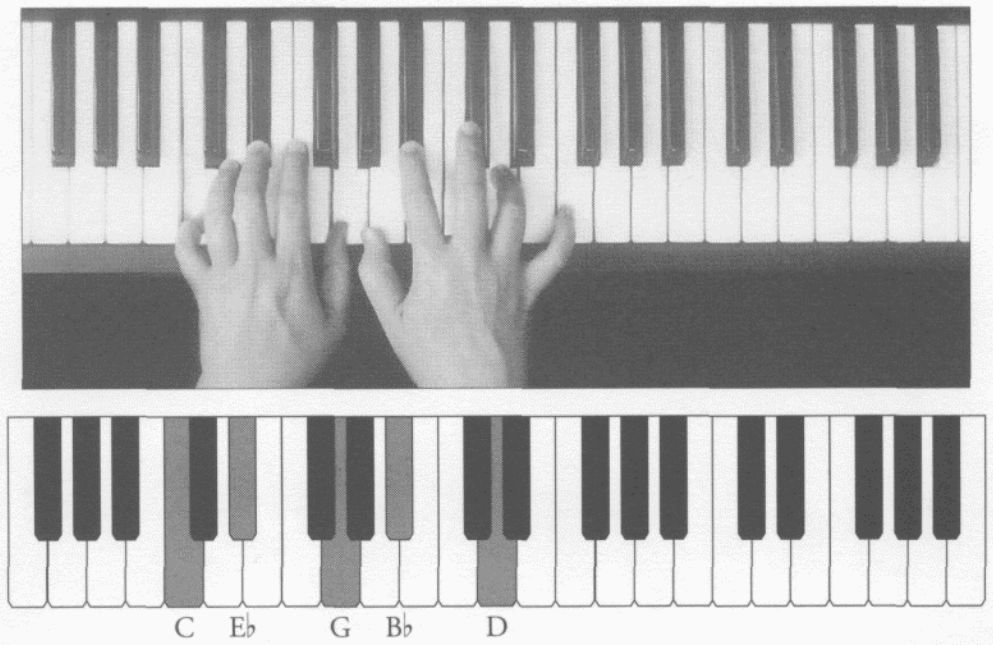
C major13♯5♯9



C minor7♭9



C minor9



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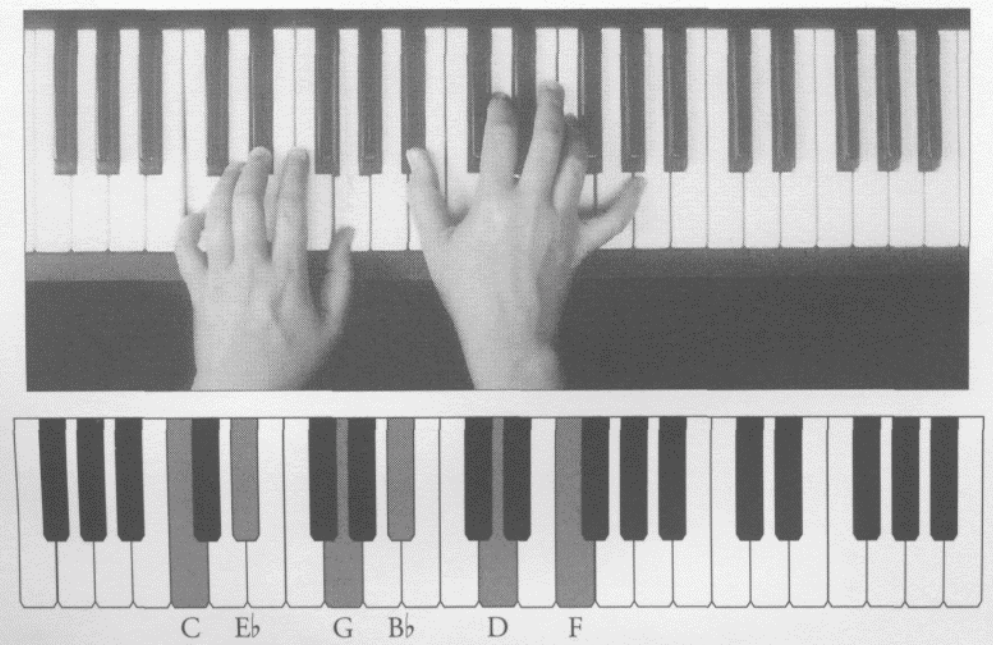
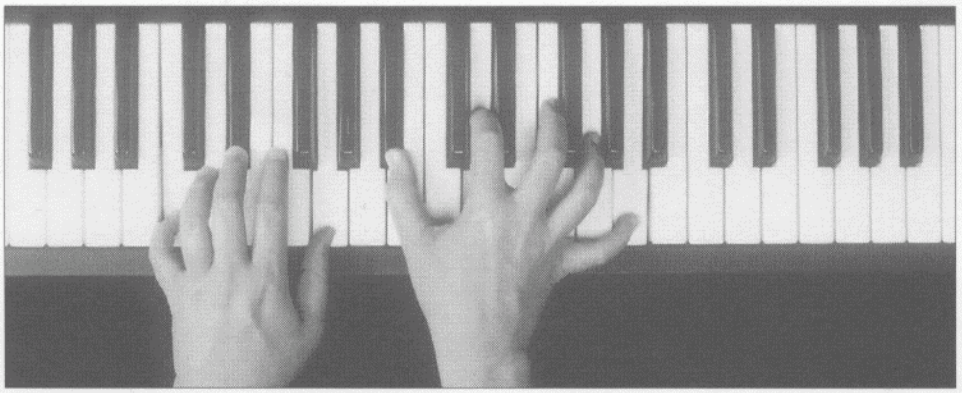
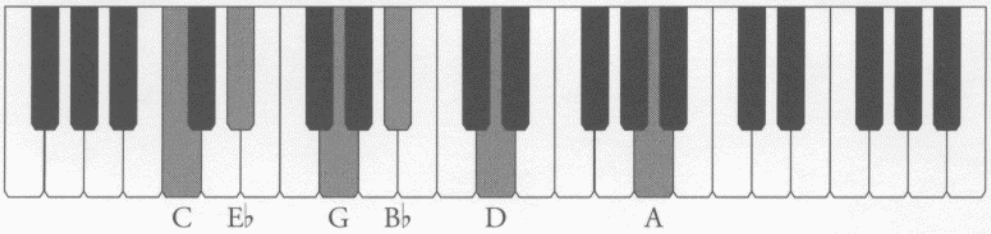
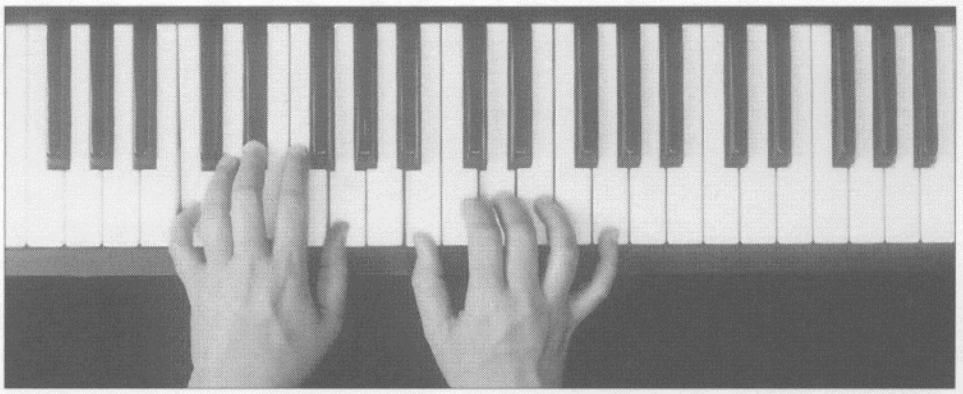


C minor13



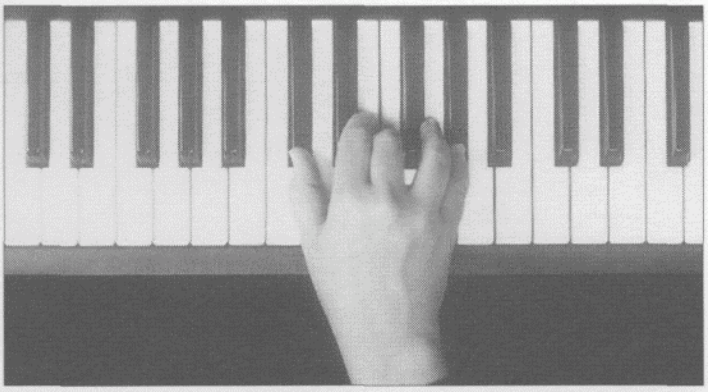


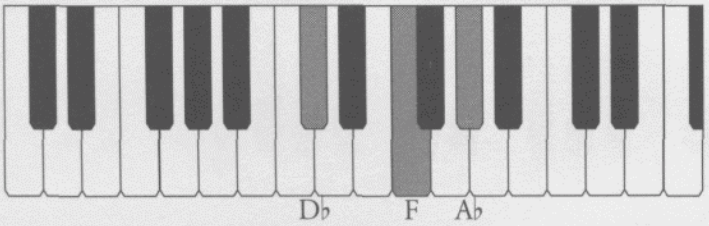
C minor9 (major7)



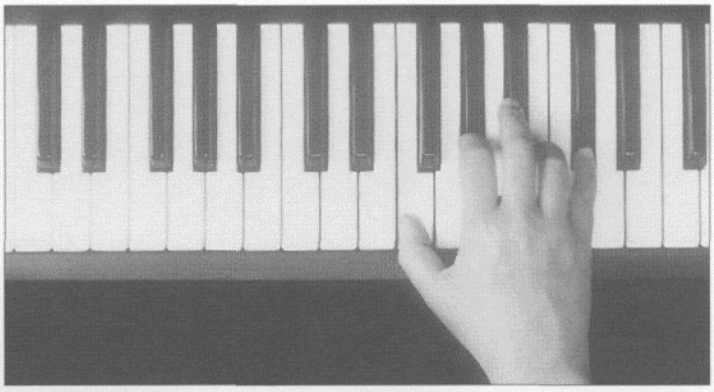
D♭ chords

D♭ major

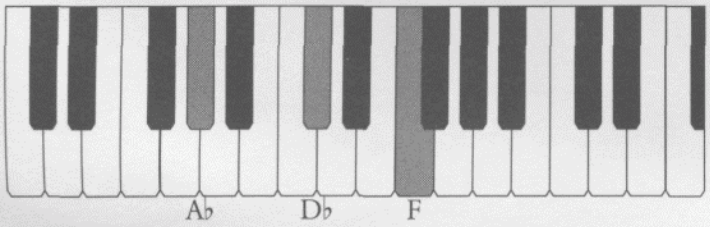




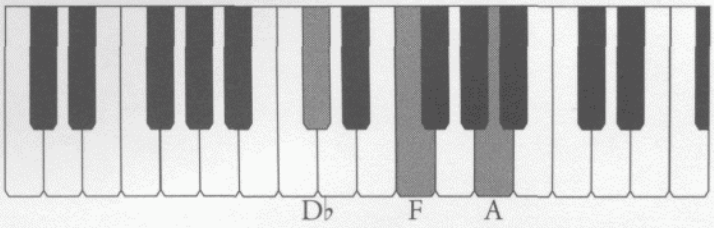
D♭/F *first inversion*



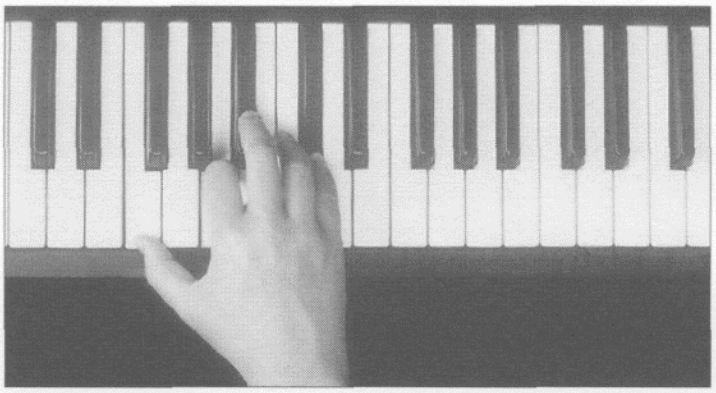
D♭/A♭ *second inversion*

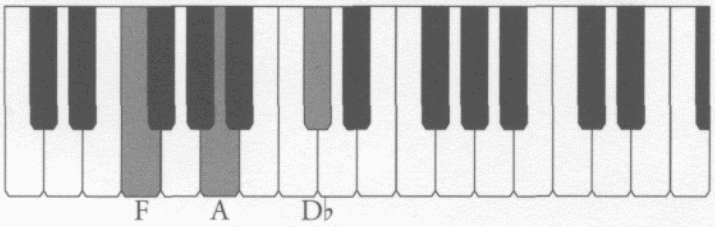


D♭ augmented

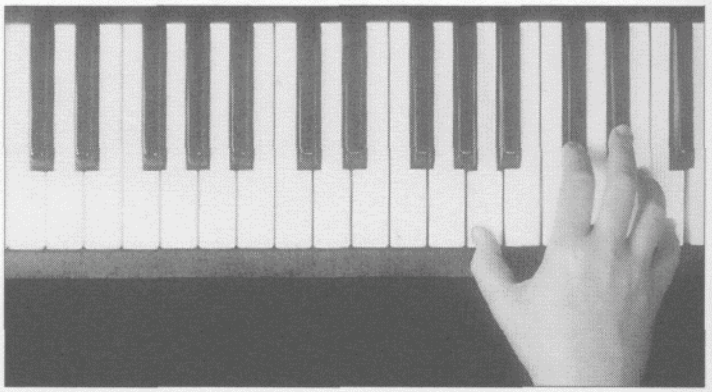


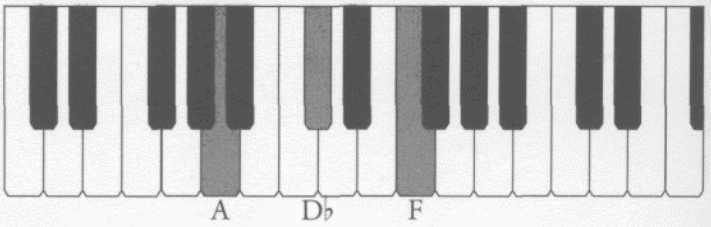
D♭ augmented *first inversion*



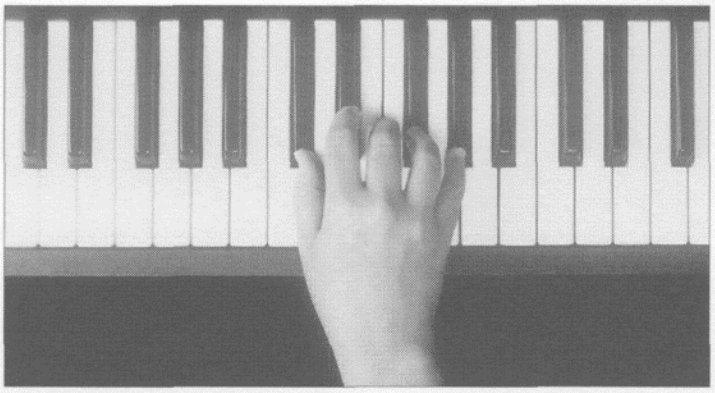


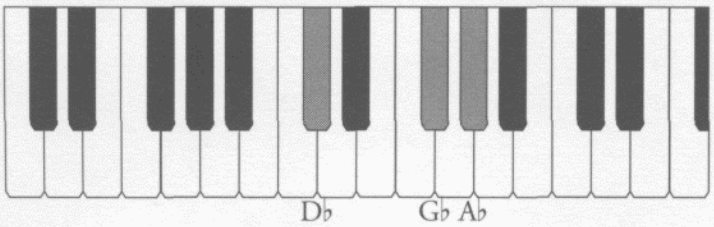
D♭ augmented *second inversion*



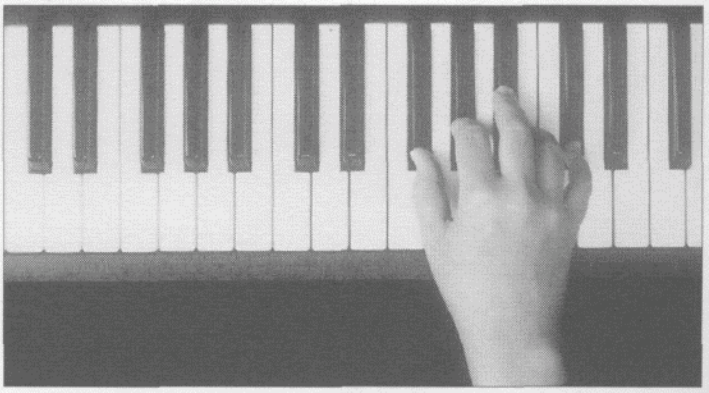


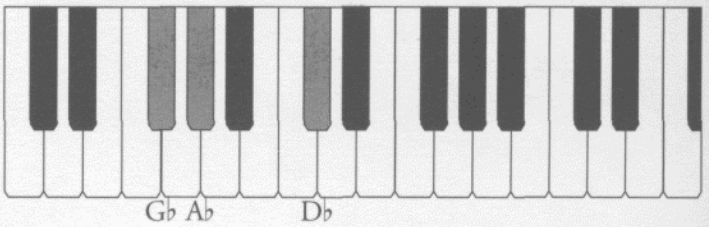
D♭sus4



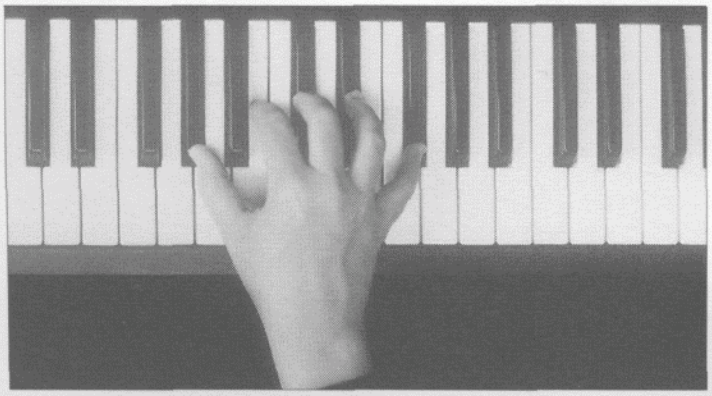


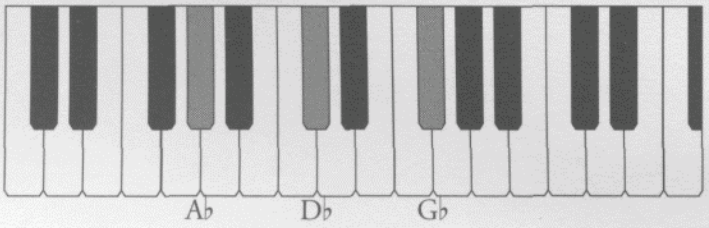
D♭sus4 *first inversion*



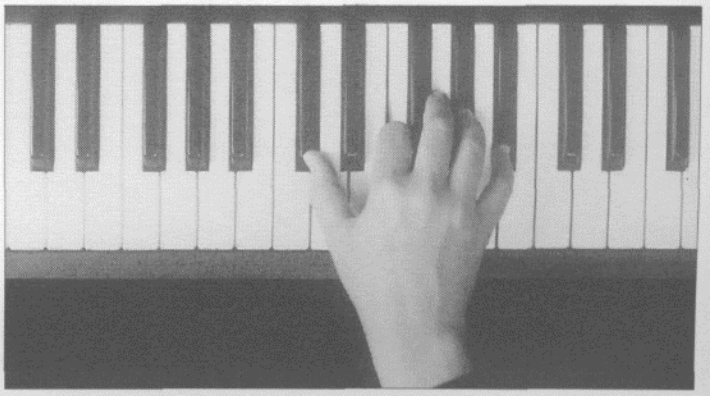


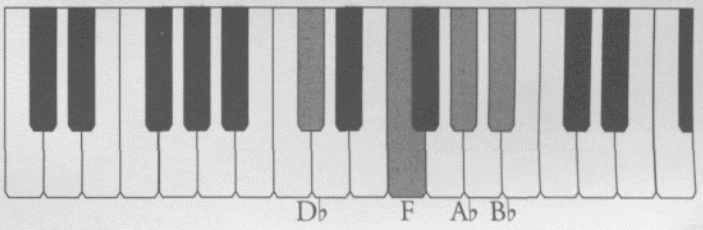
D♭sus4 *second inversion*



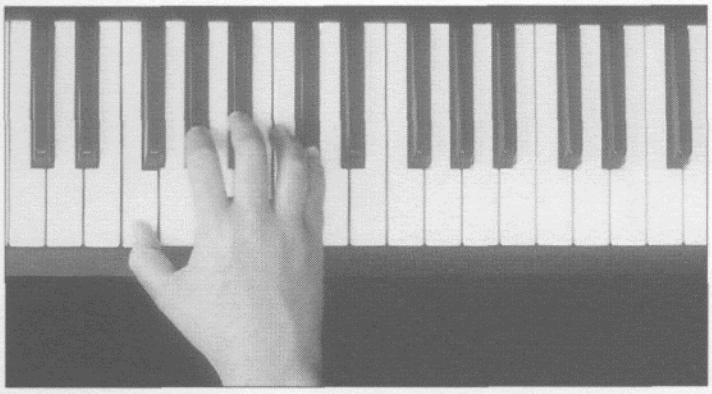


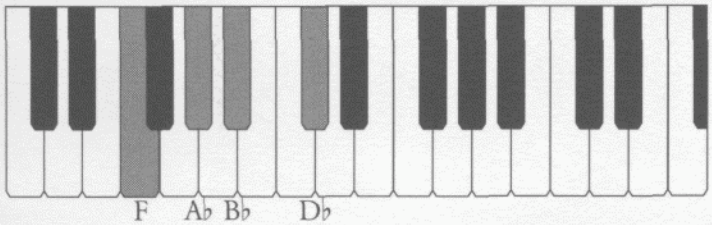
D♭6



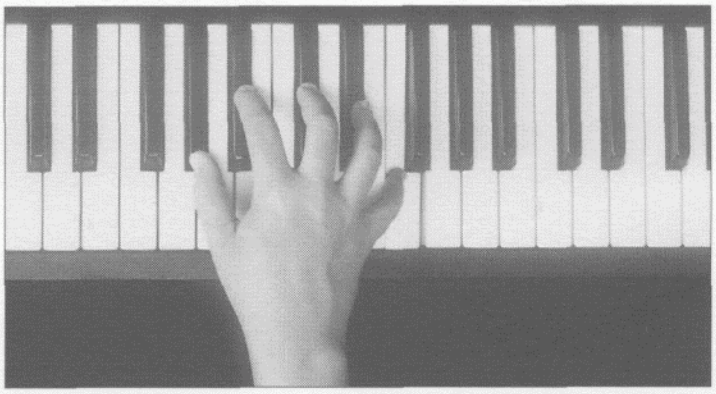


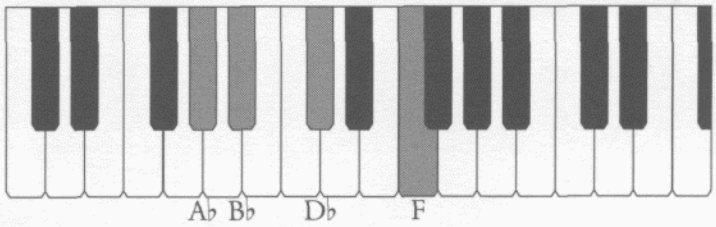
D♭6 *first inversion*



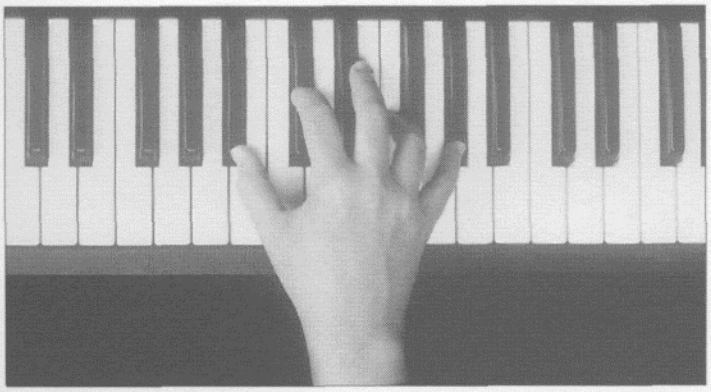


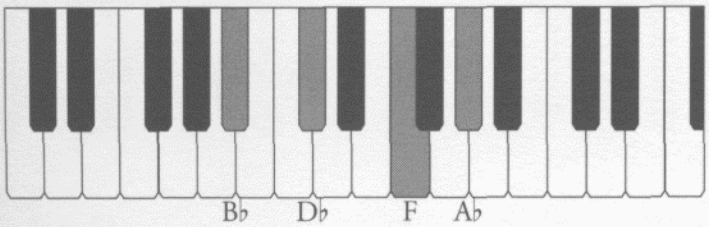
D♭6 *second inversion*



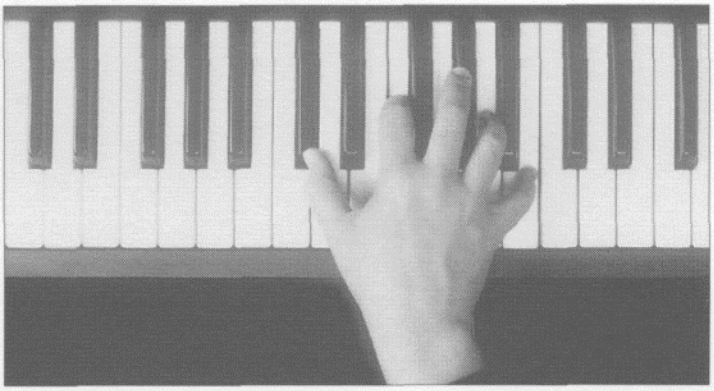


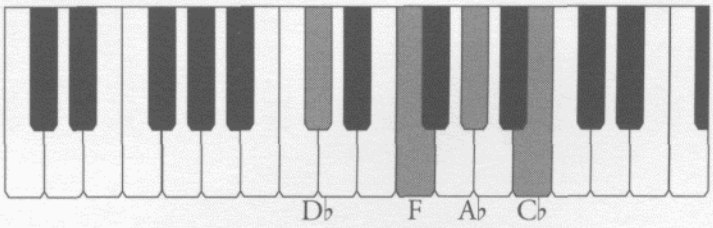
D♭6 *third inversion*



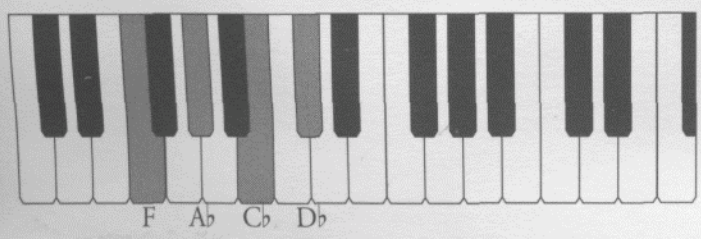


D♭7

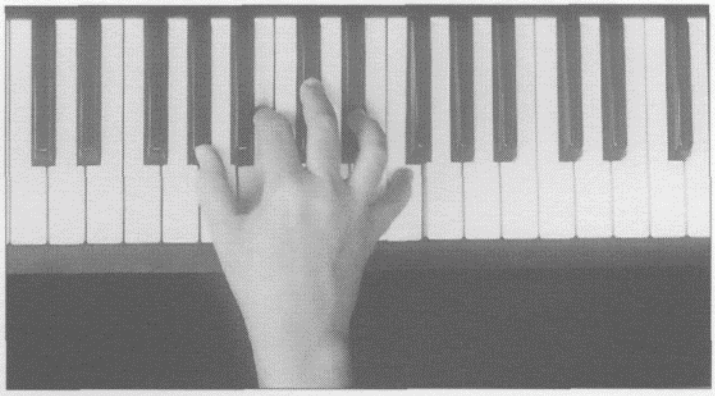


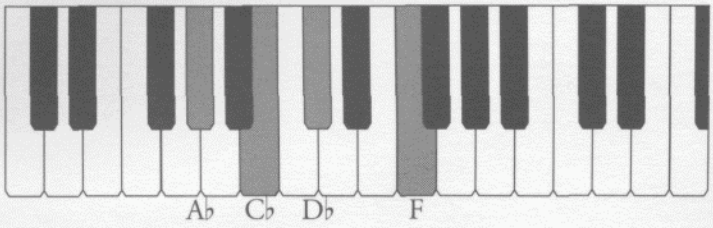


D♭7 *first inversion*

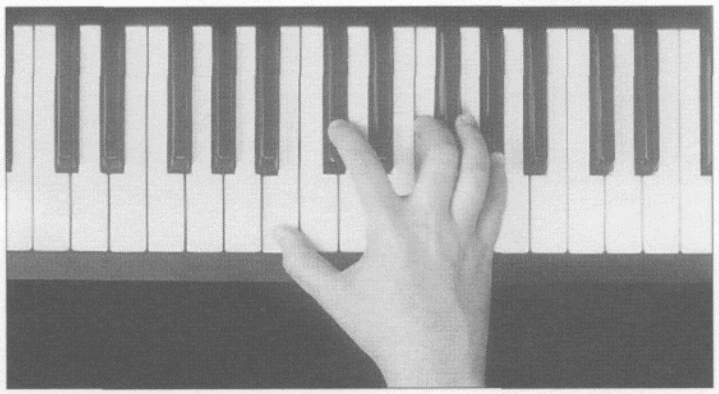


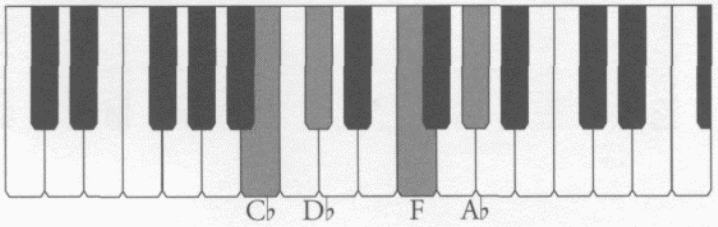
D♭7 *second inversion*



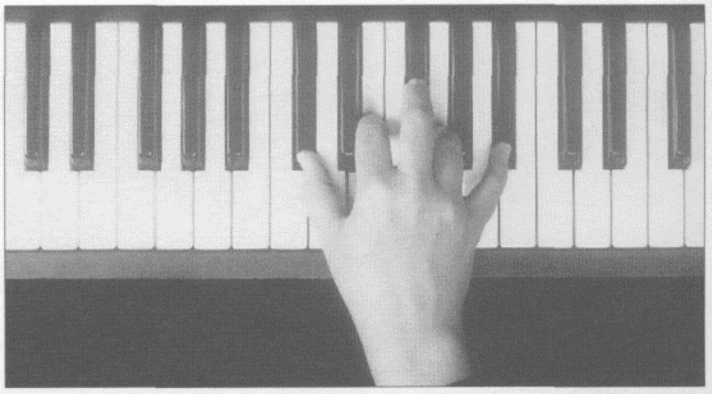


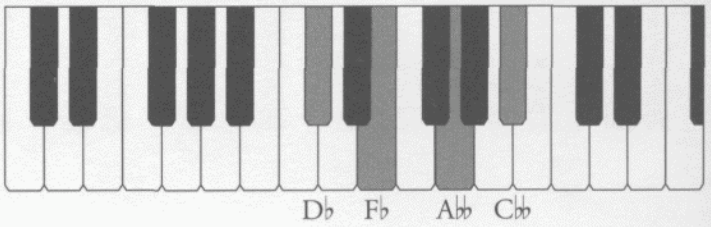
D♭7 *third inversion*



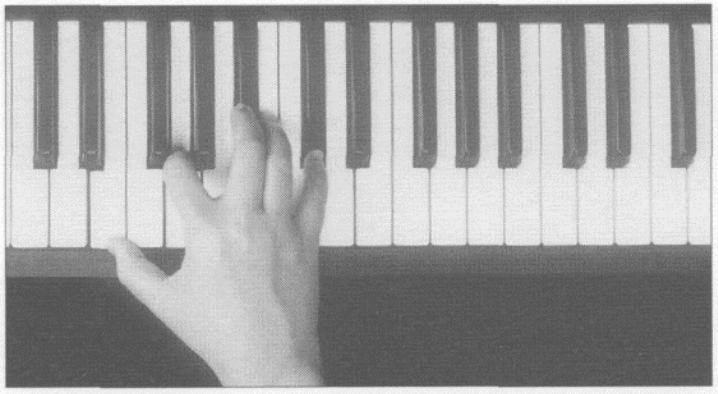


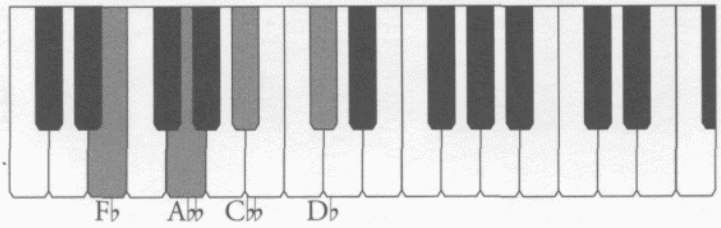
D♭°7



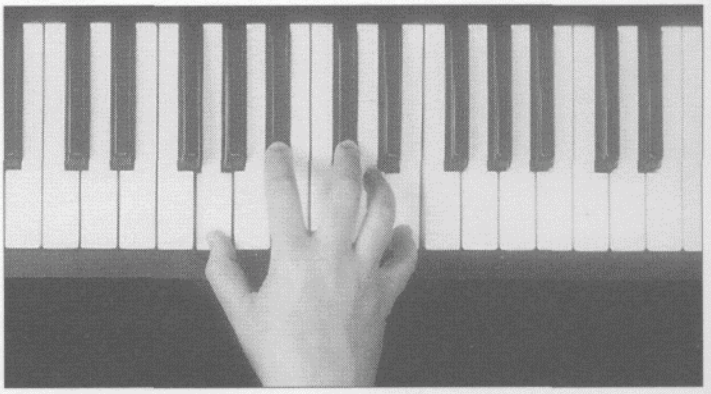


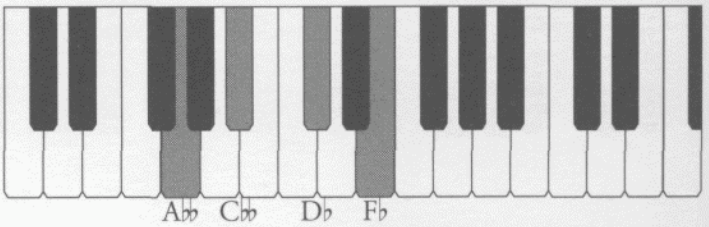
D♭°7 *first inversion*



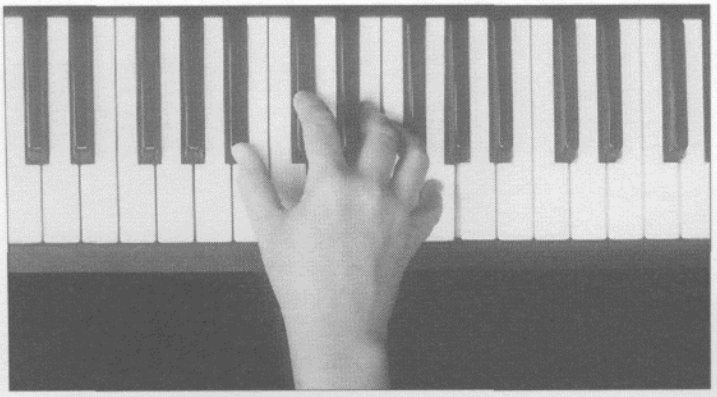


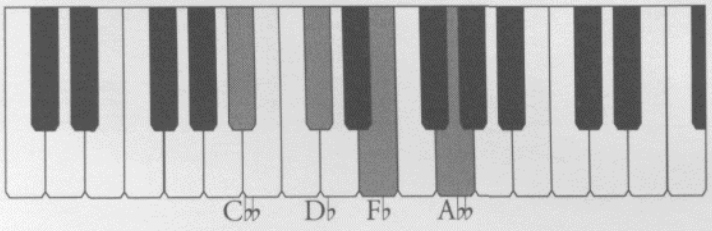
D♭°7 *second inversion*



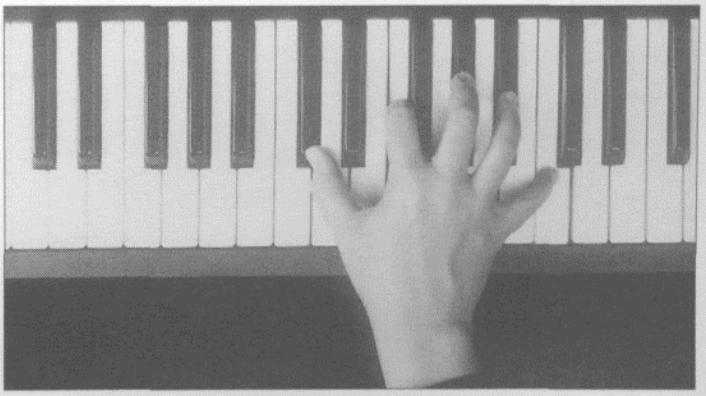


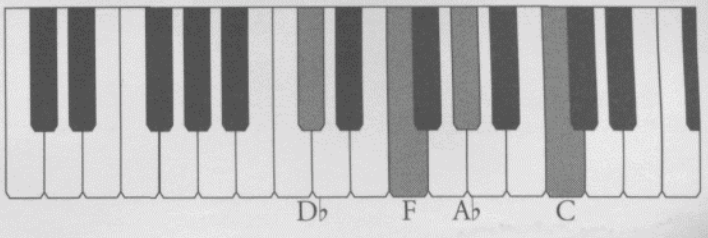
D♭°7 *third inversion*



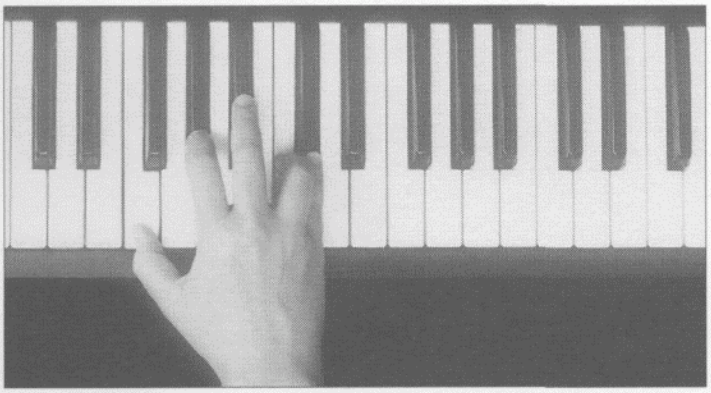


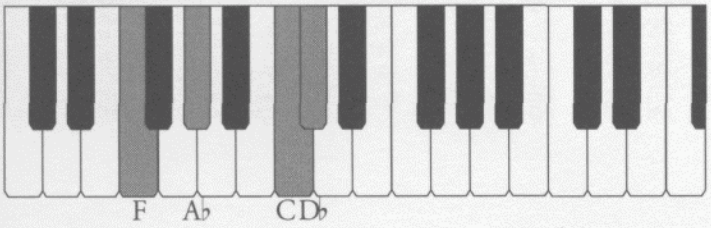
D♭ major7



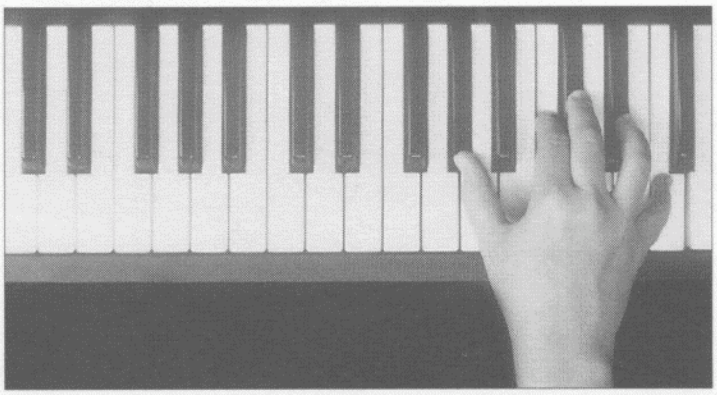


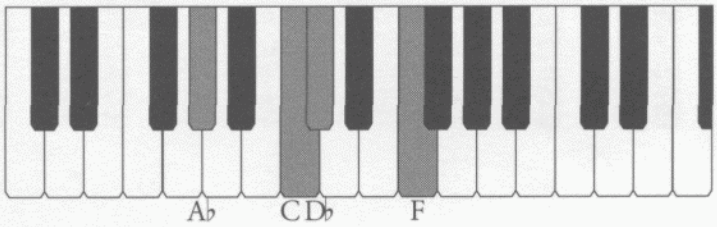
D♭ major7 *first inversion*



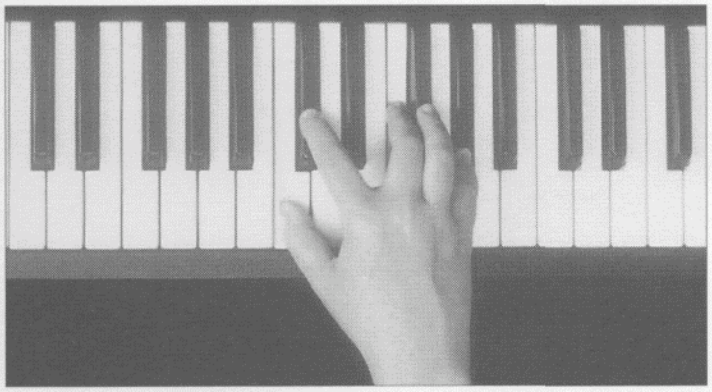


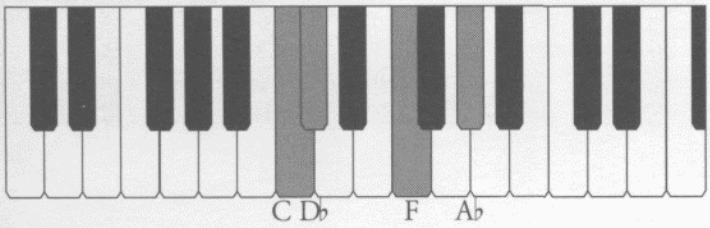
D♭ major7 *second inversion*



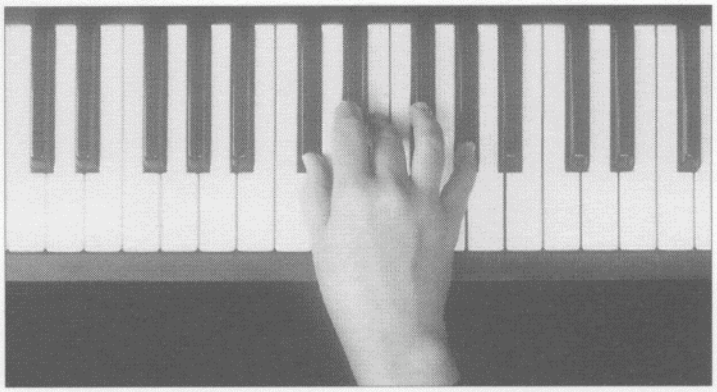


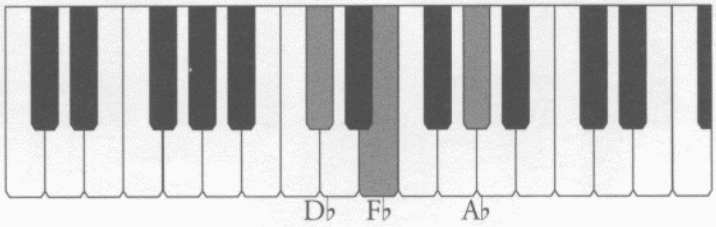
D♭ major7 *third inversion*



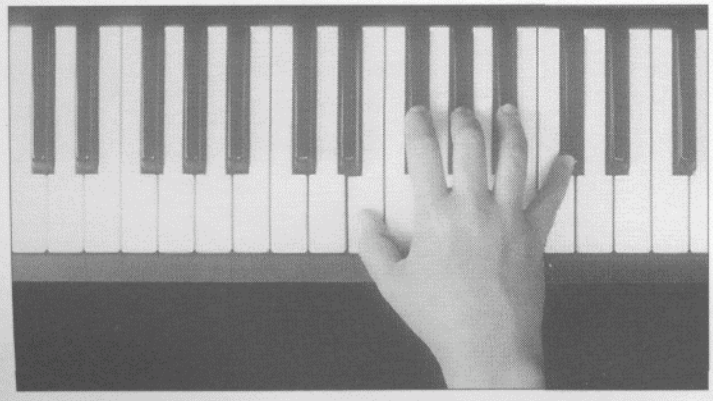


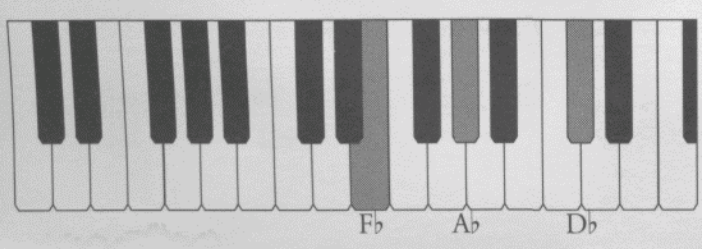
D♭ minor



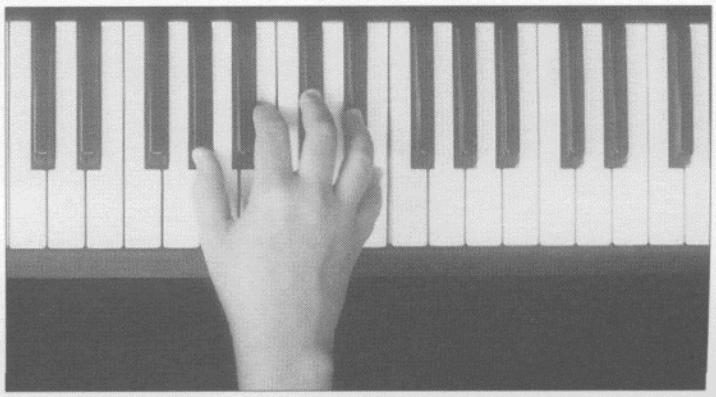


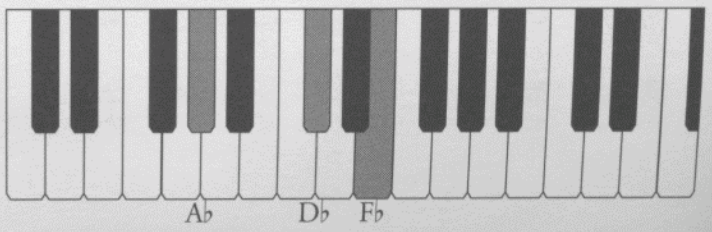
D♭ minor *first inversion*



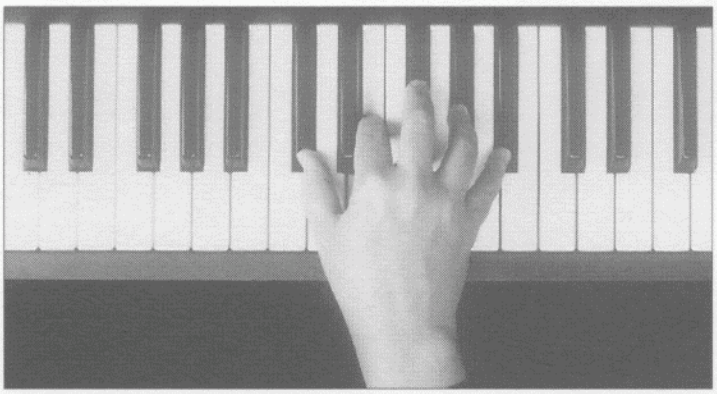


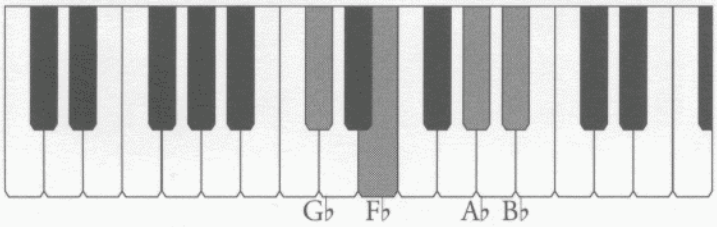
D♭ minor *second inversion*



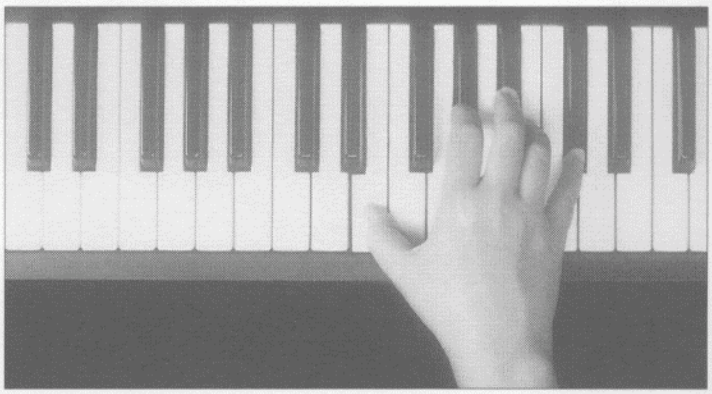


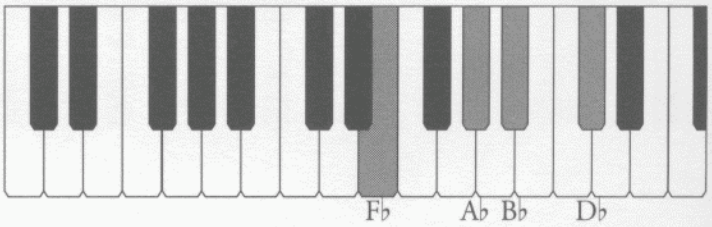
D♭ minor6



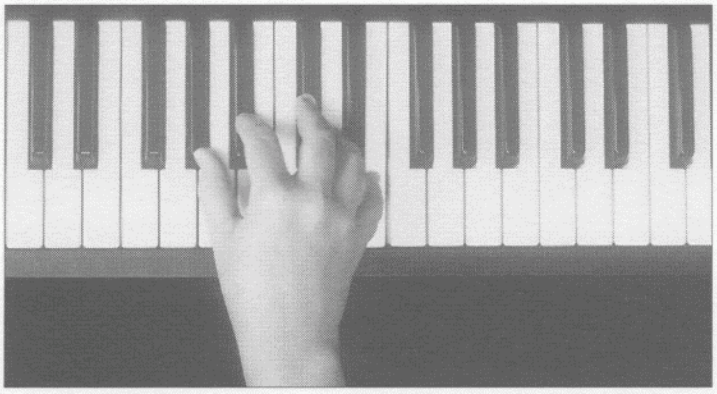


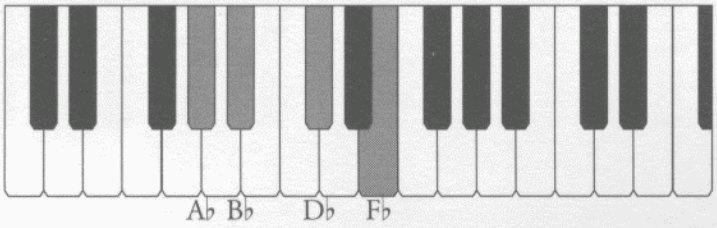
D♭ minor6 *first inversion*



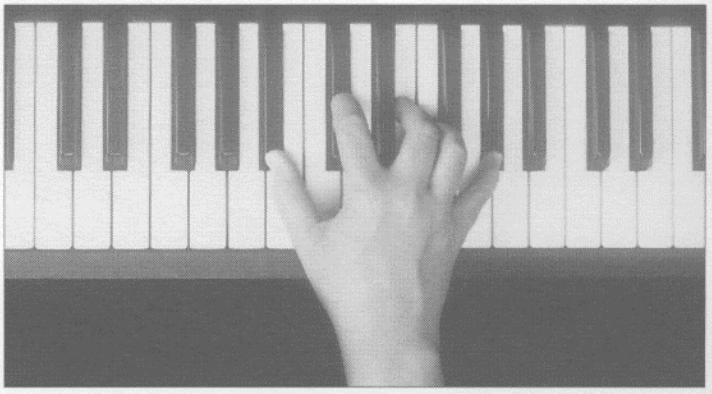


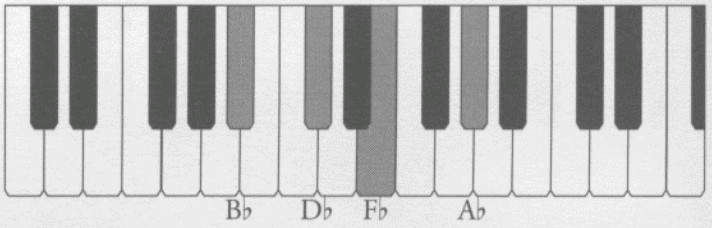
D♭ minor6 *second inversion*



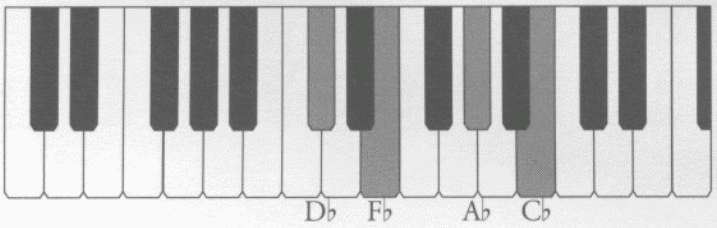


D♭ minor6 *third inversion*

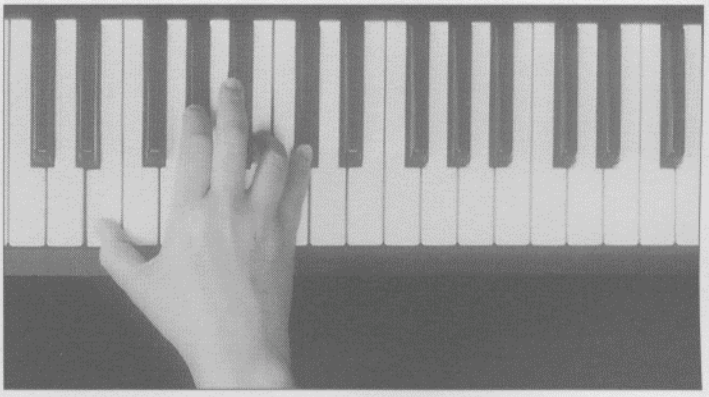


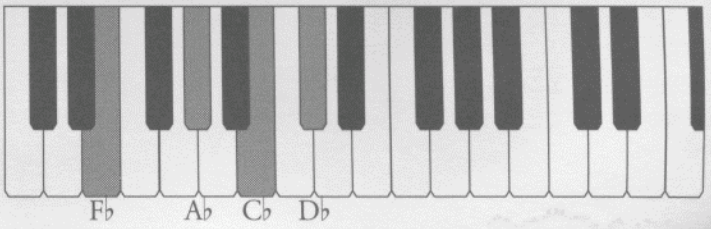


D♭ minor7

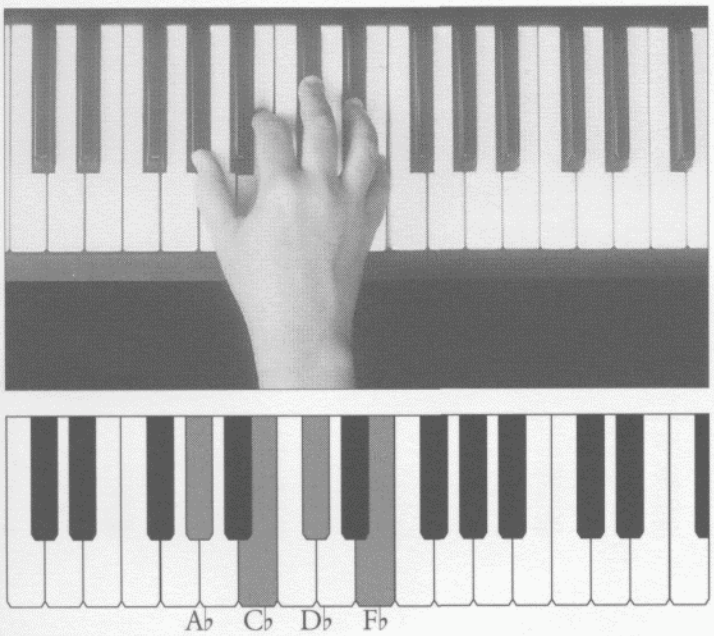


D♭ minor7 *first inversion*

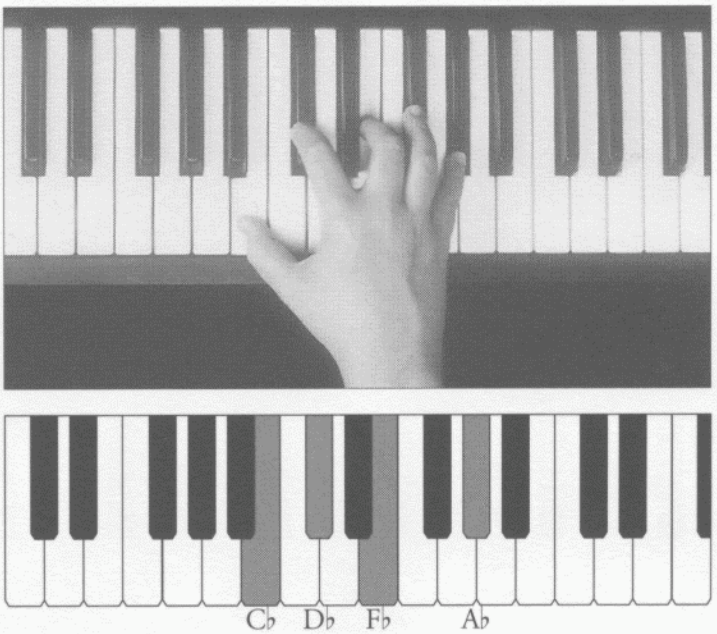




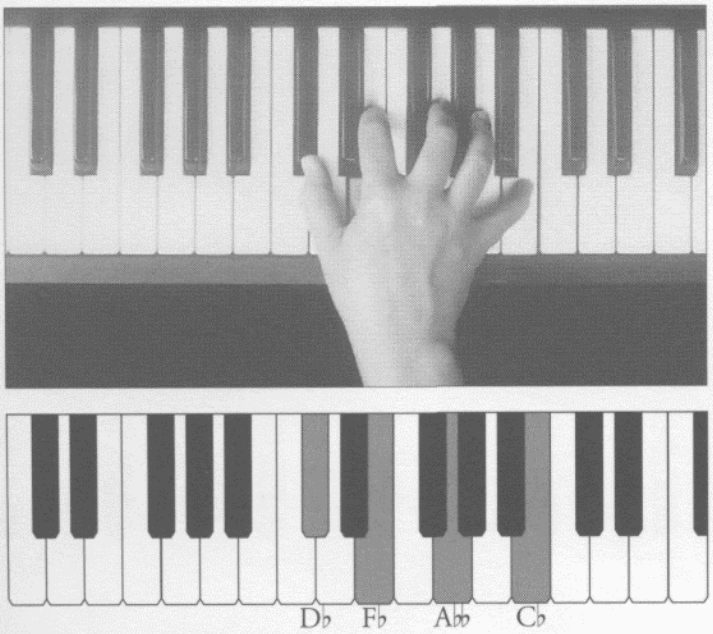
D♭ minor7 *second inversion*



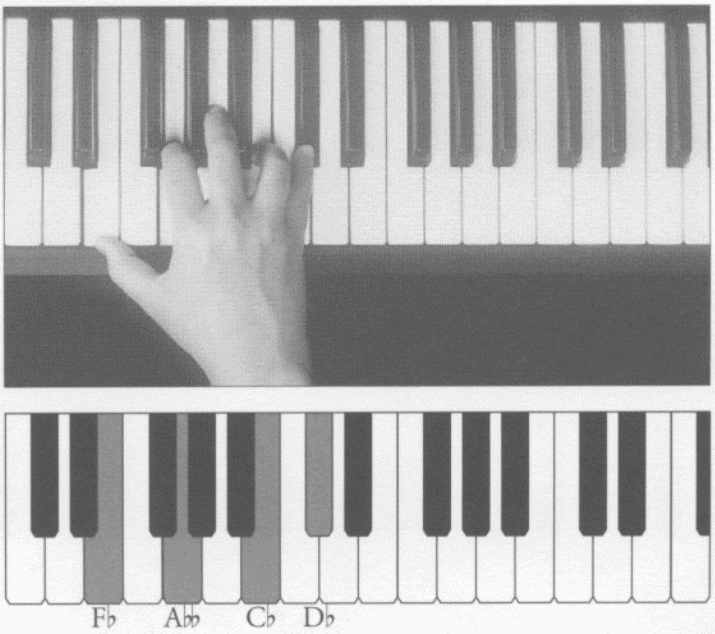
D♭ minor7 *third inversion*



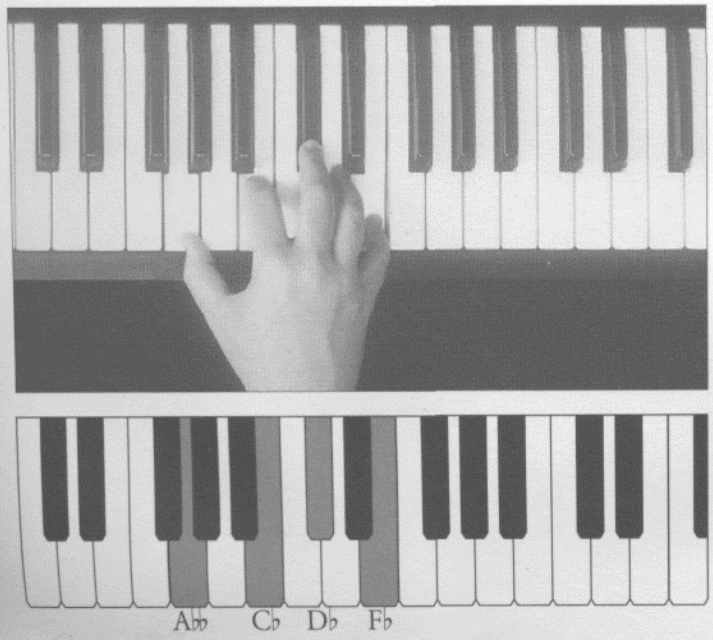
D♭ minor7♭5



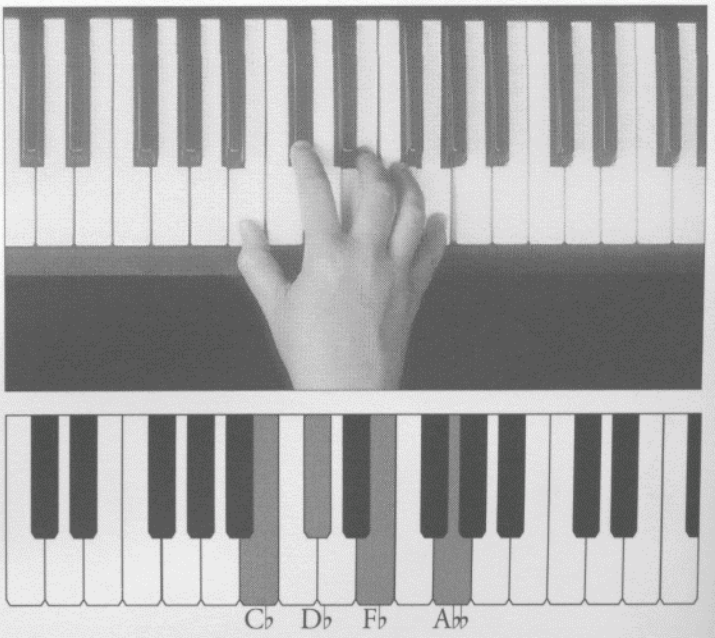
D♭ minor7♭5 *first inversion*



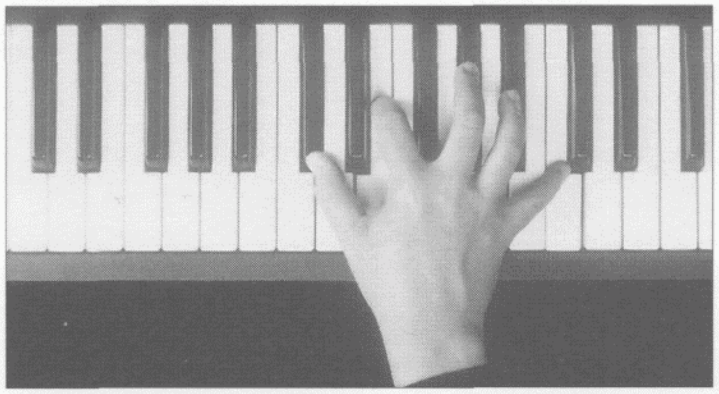
D♭ minor7♭5 *second inversion*

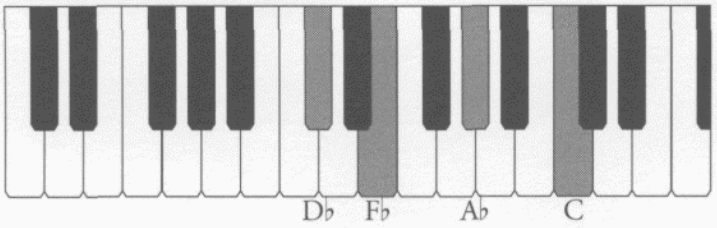


D♭ minor7♭5 *third inversion*

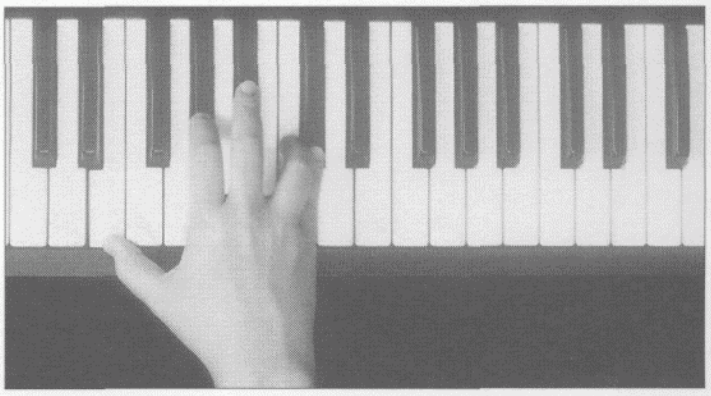


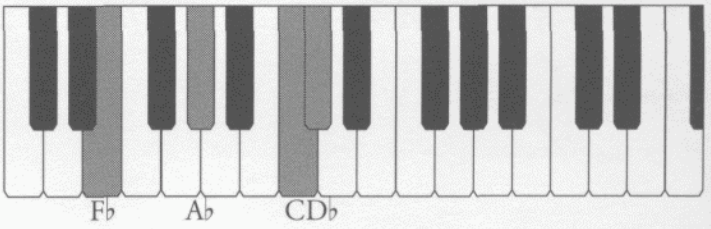
D♭ minor (major7)



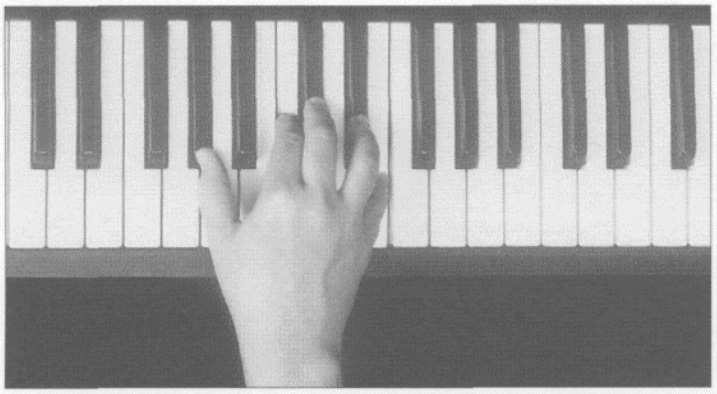


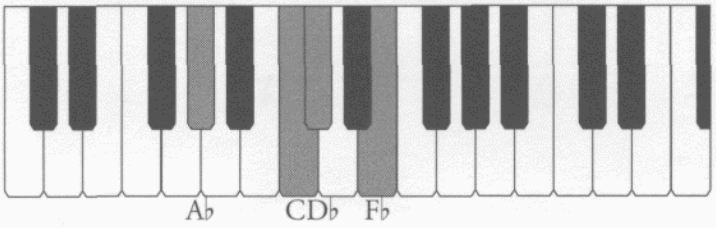
D♭ minor (major7) *first inversion*



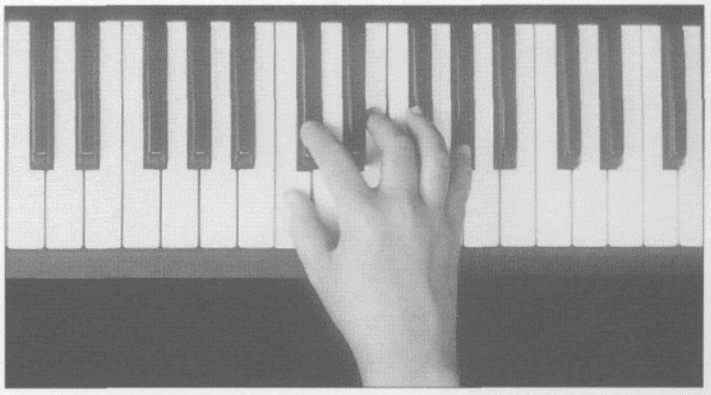


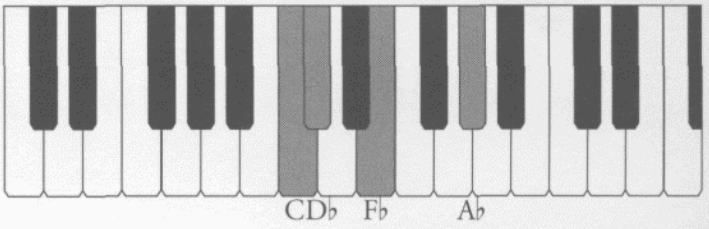
D♭ minor (major7) *second inversion*





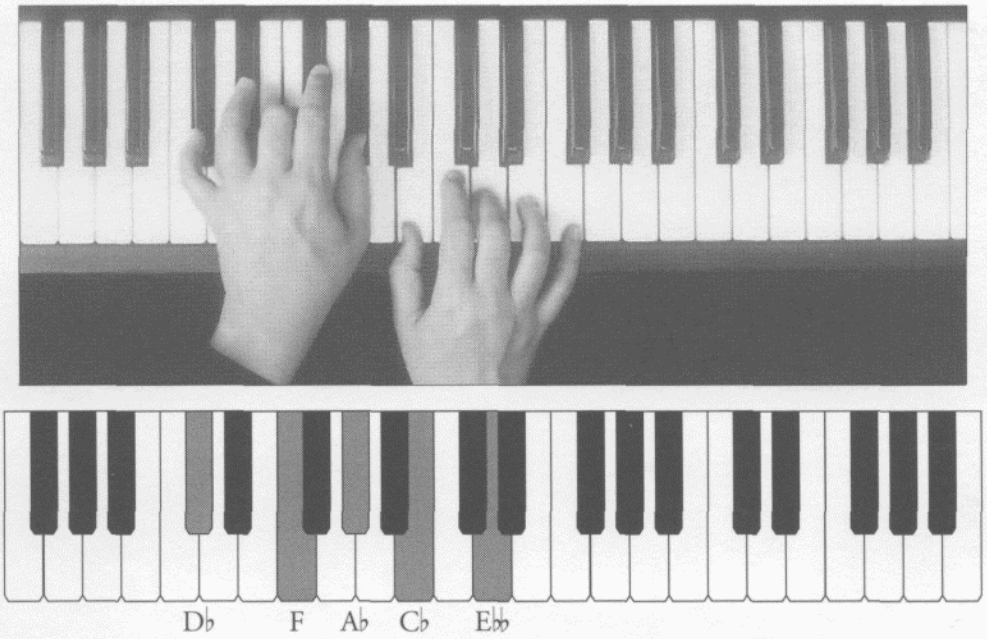
D♭ minor (major7) *third inversion*



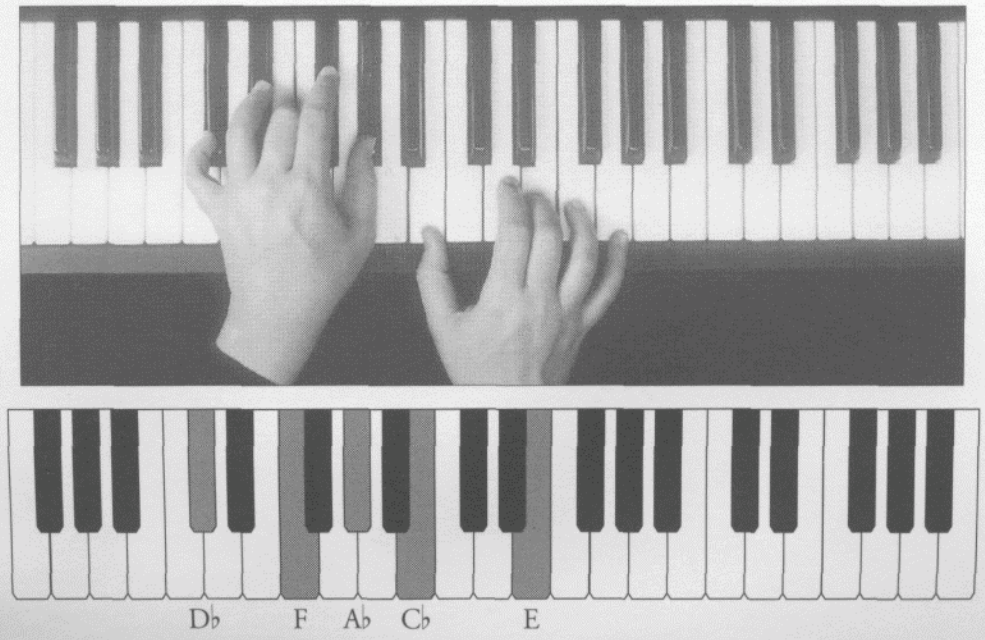


D♭ chords
using both hands

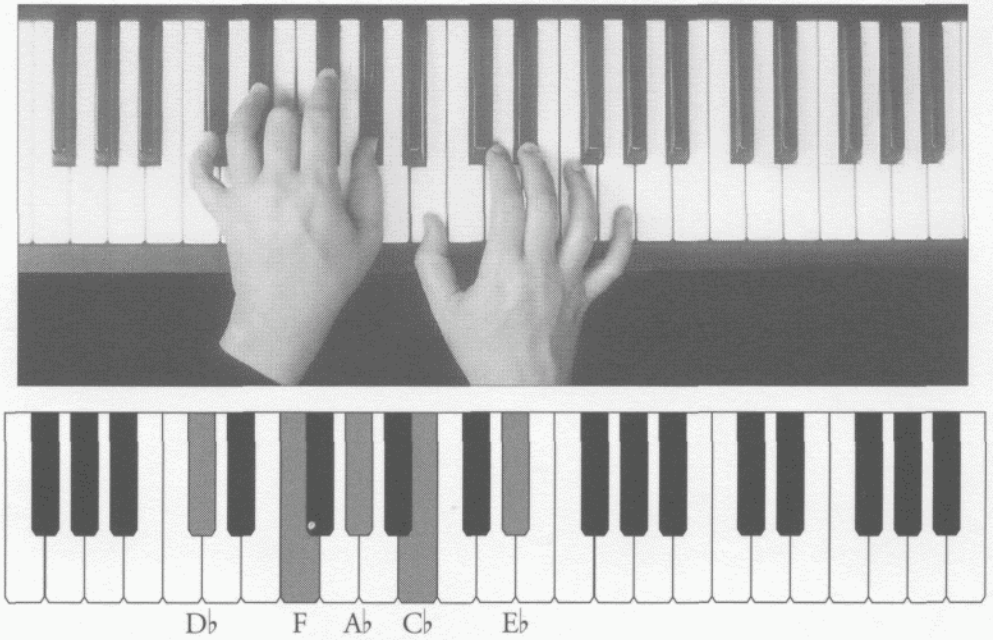
D♭7♭9



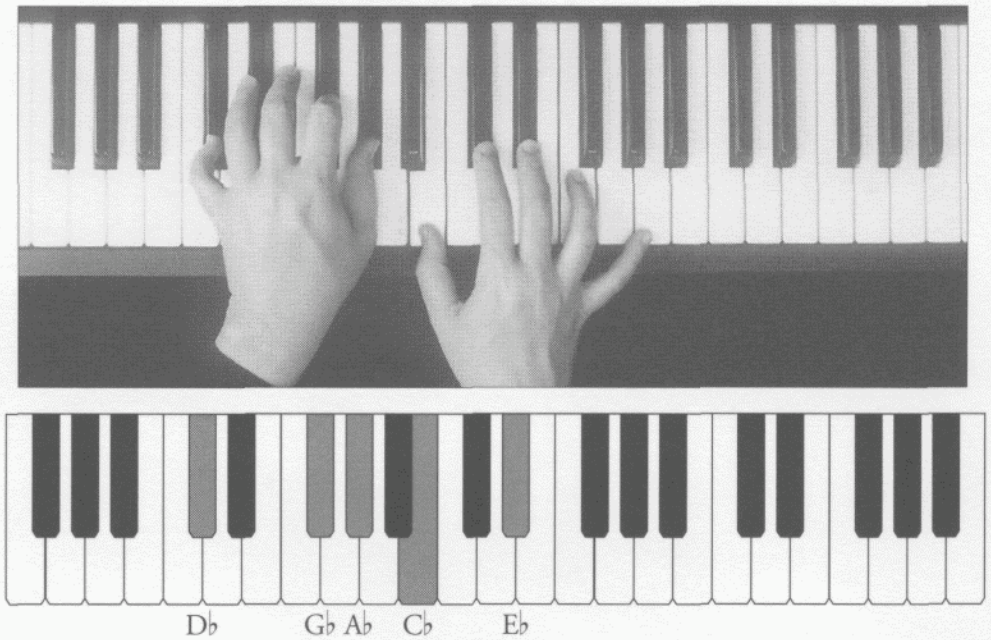
D♭7♯9



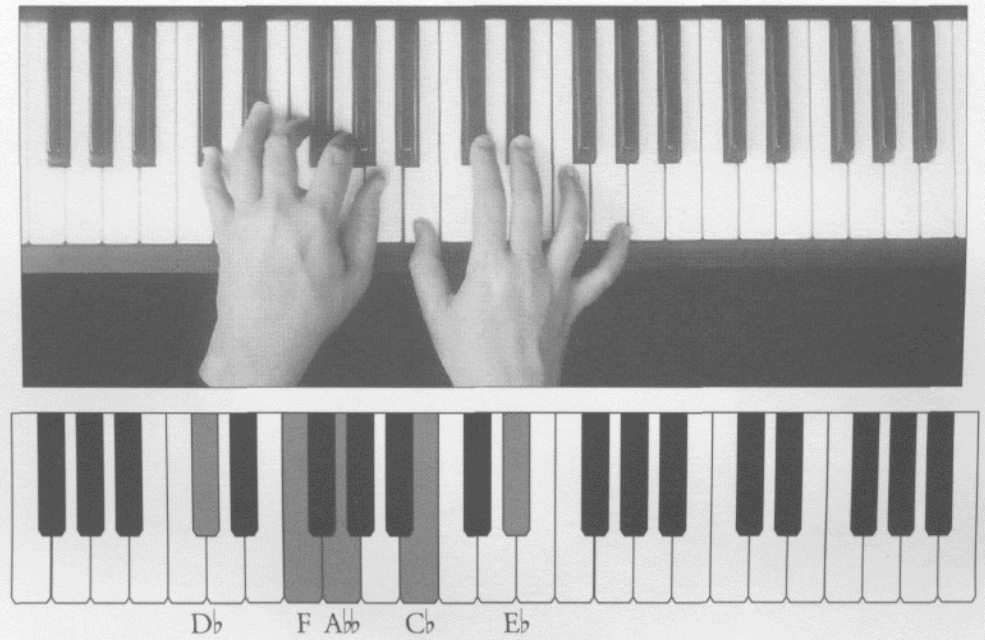
D♭9



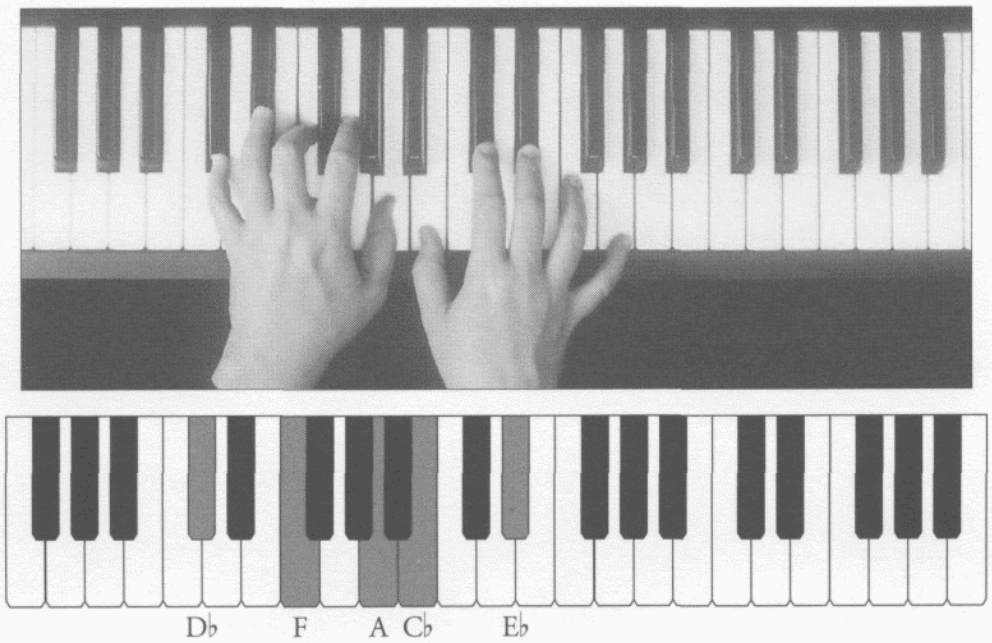
D♭9sus4



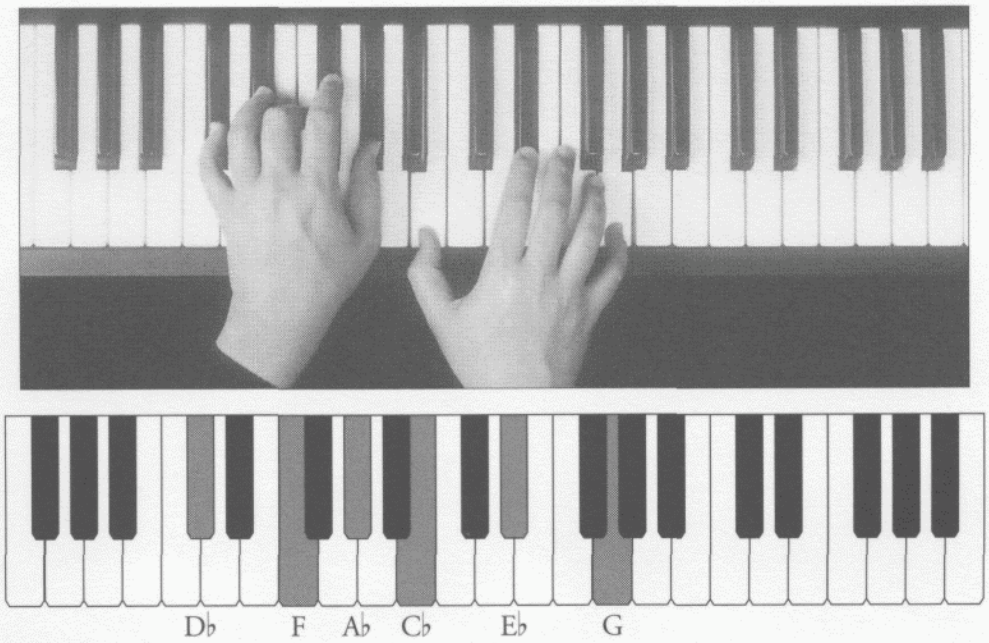
D♭9♭5



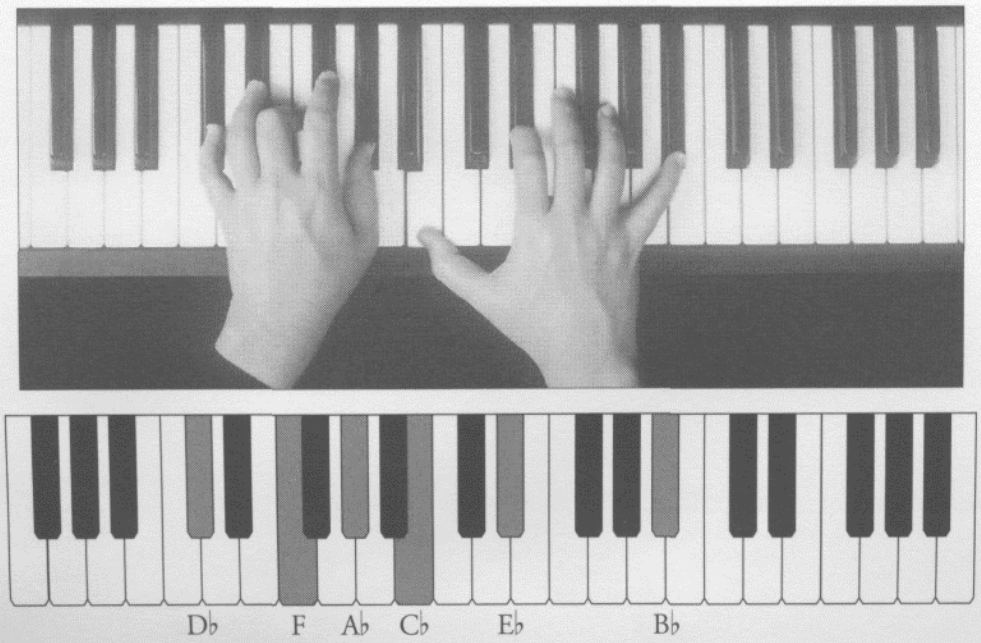
D♭9♯5



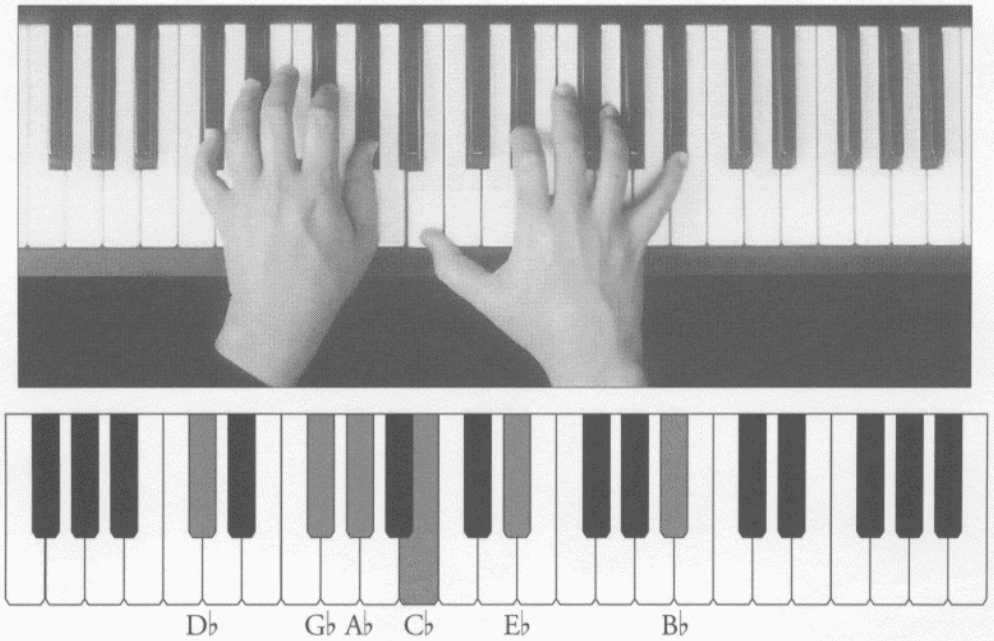
D♭9♯11



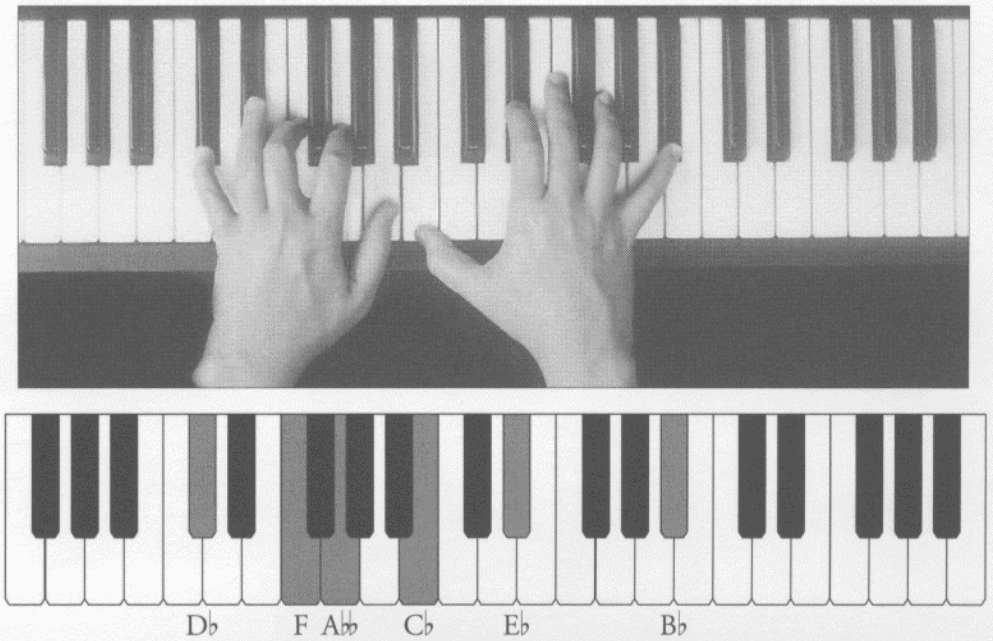
D♭13



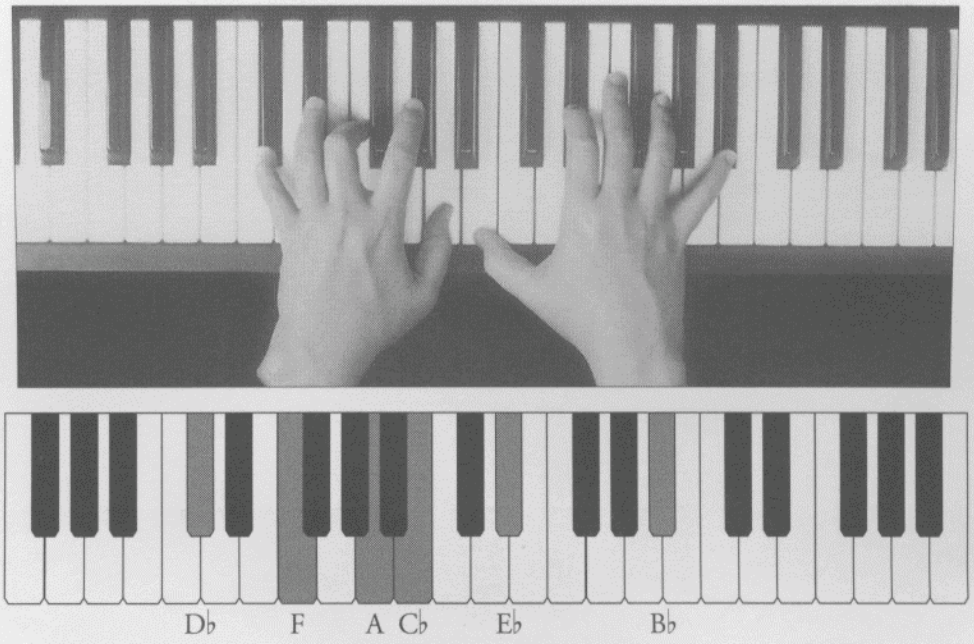
D♭13sus4



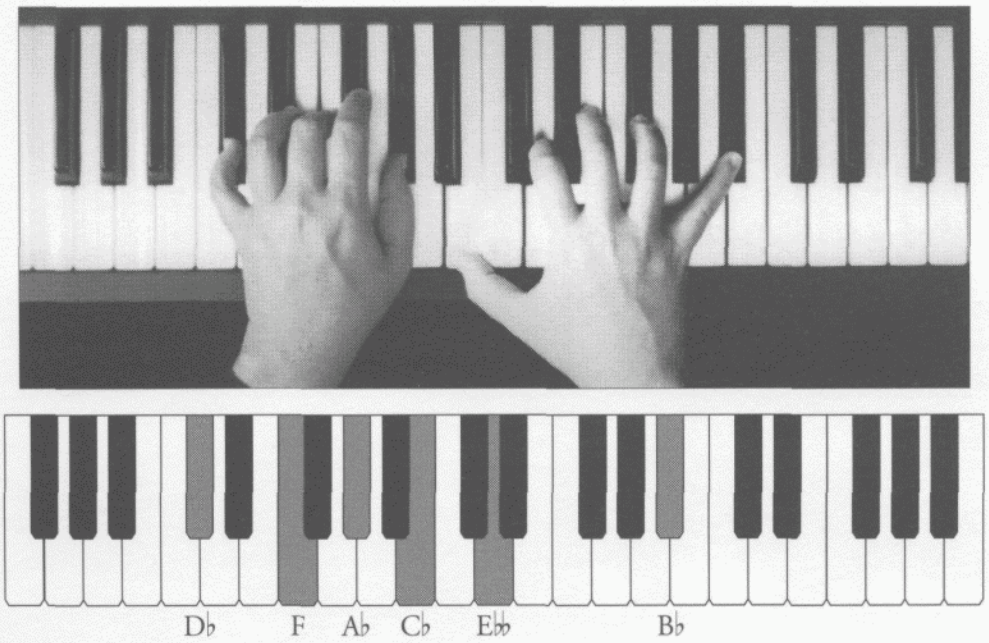
D♭13♭5



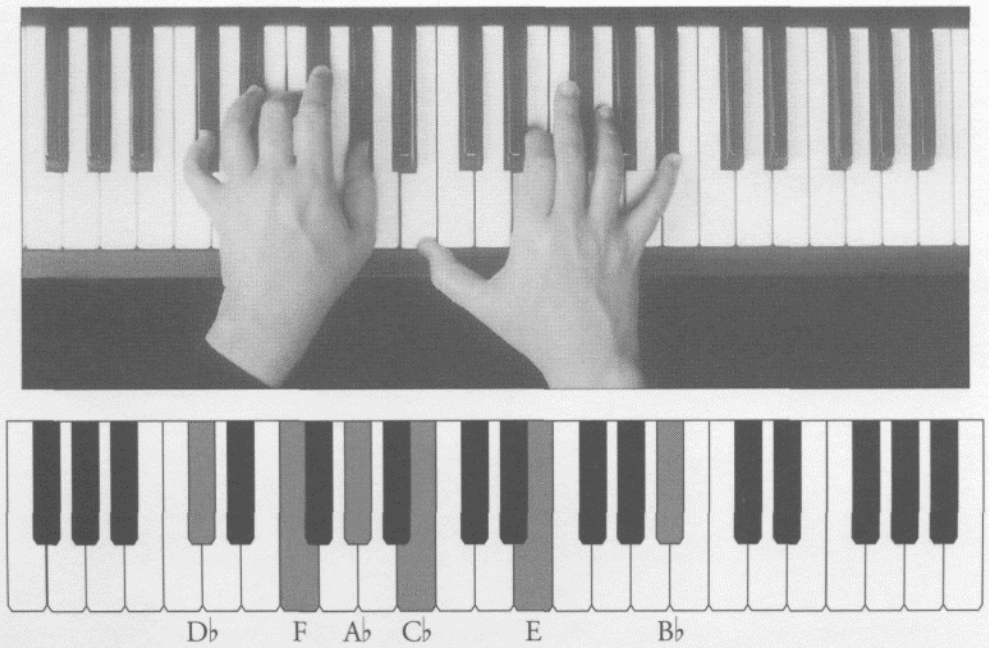
D♭13♯5



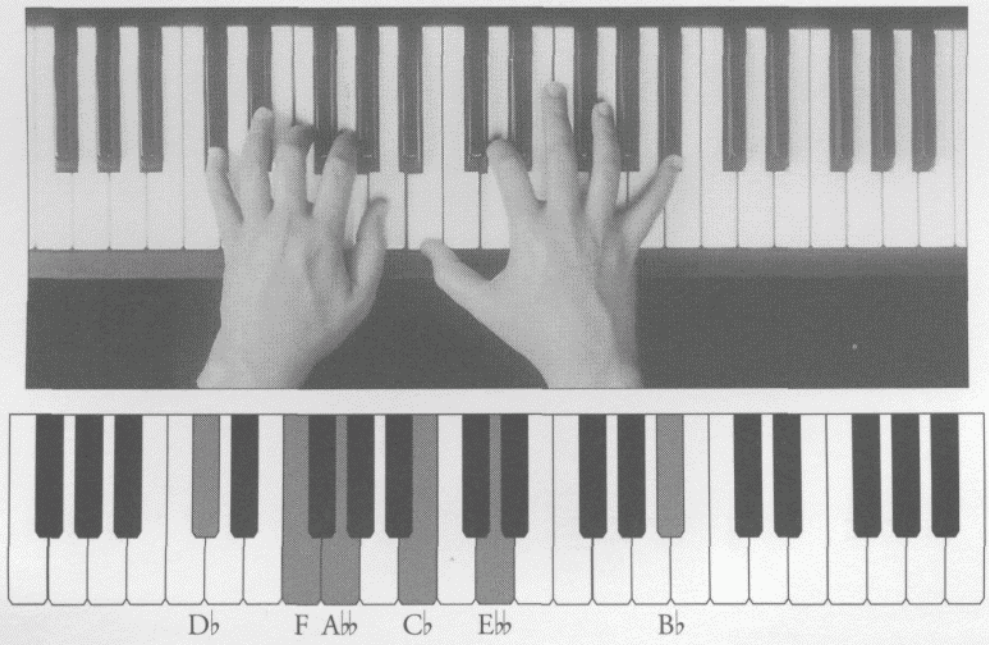
D♭13♭9



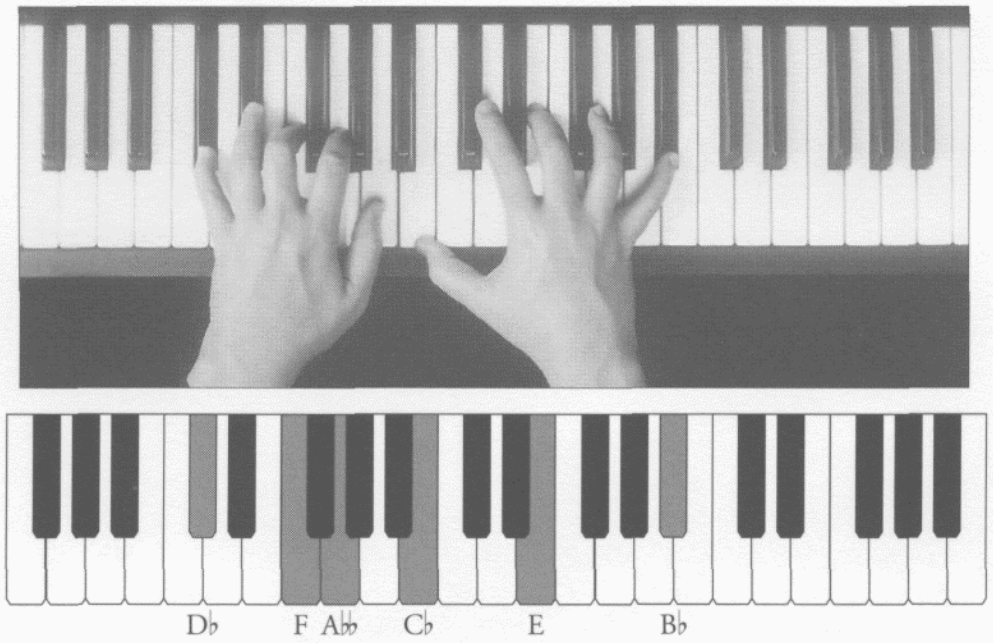
D♭13♯9



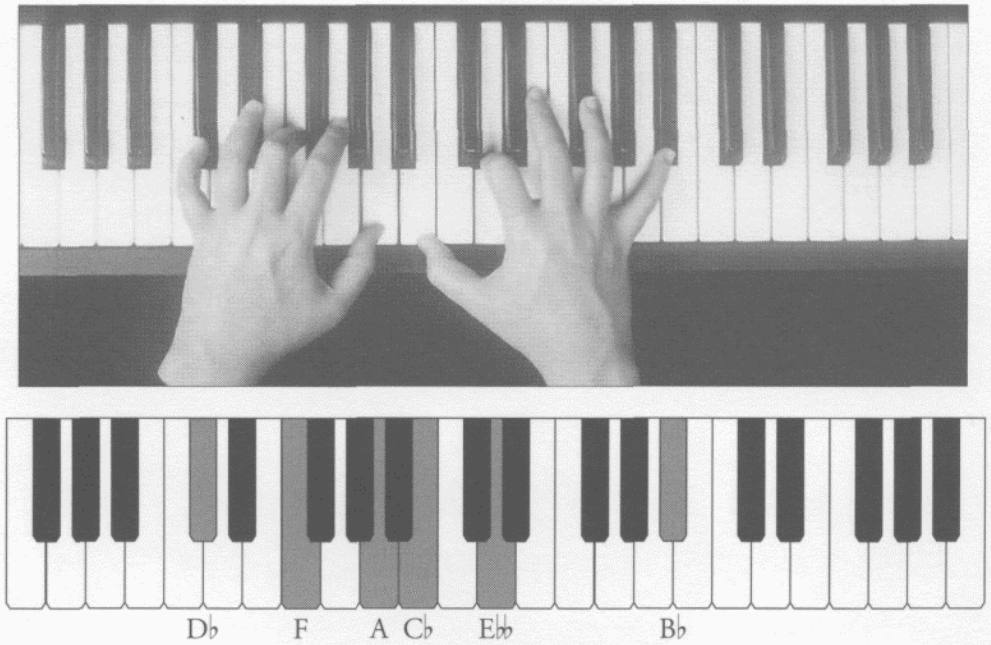
D♭13♭5♭9



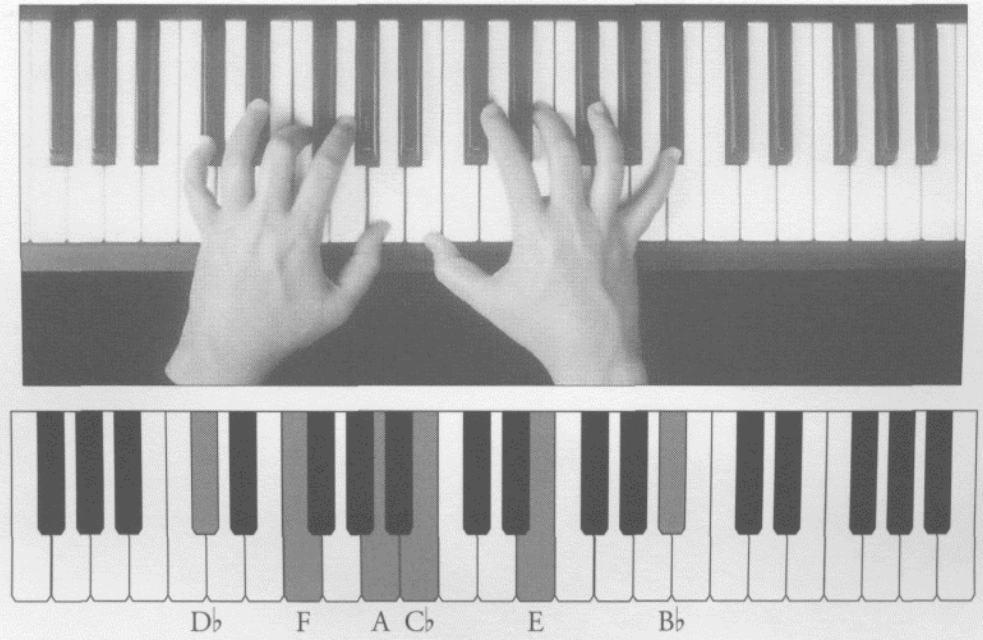
D♭13♭5♯9



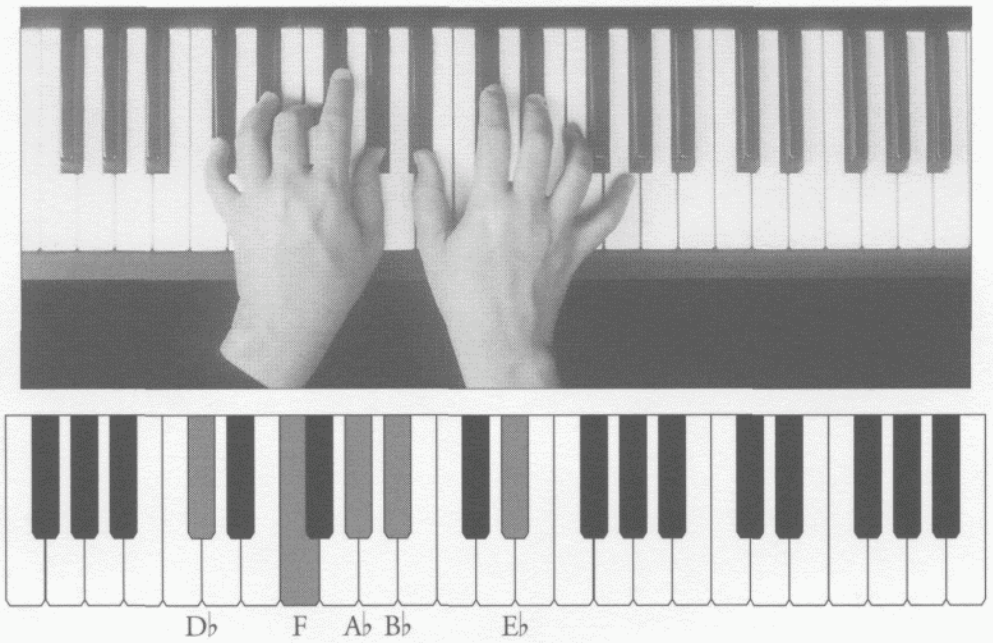
D♭13♯5♭9



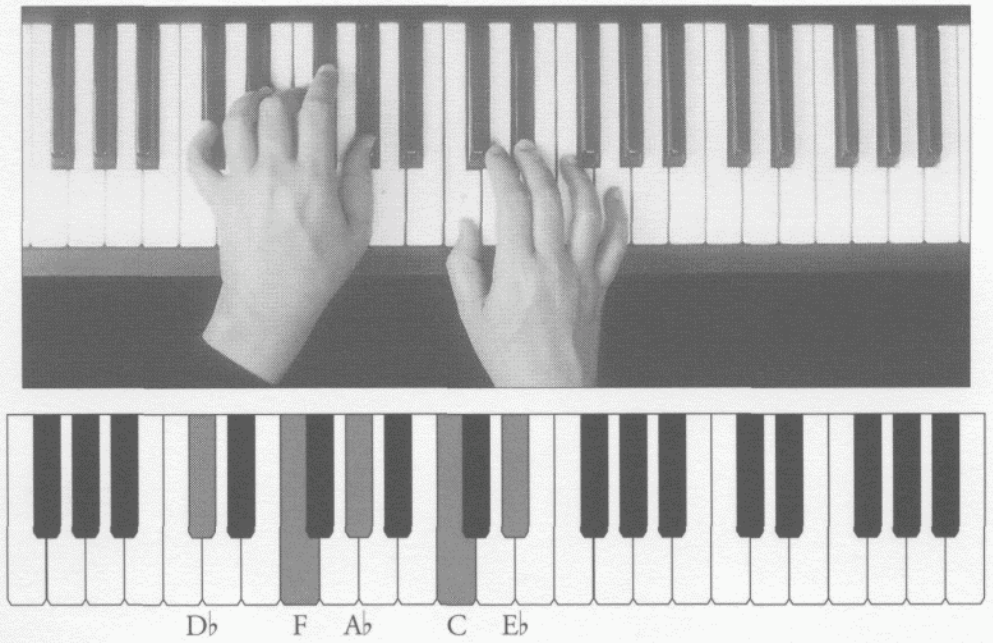
D♭13♯5♯9



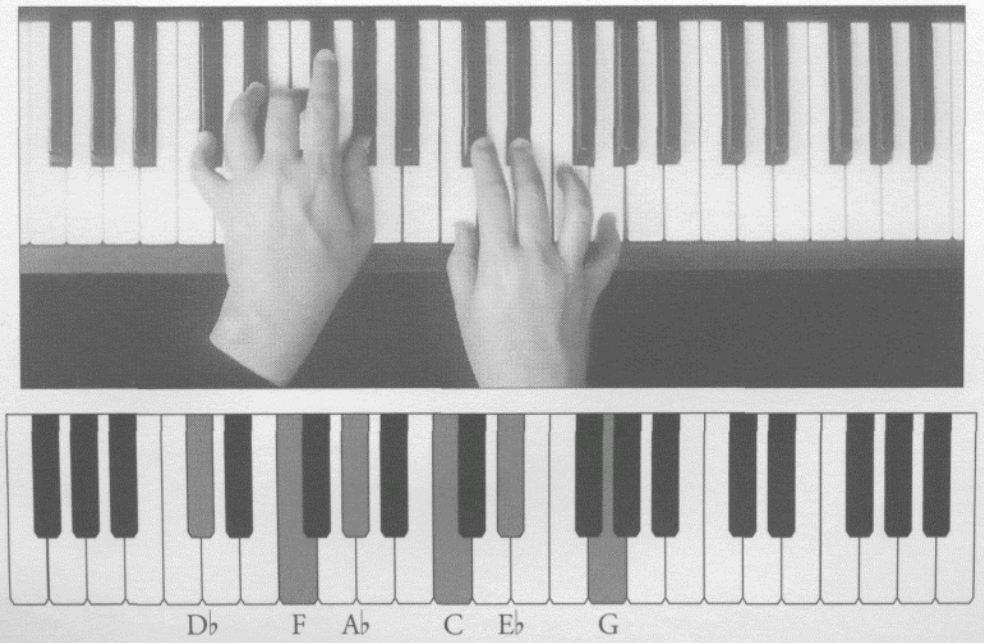
D♭ 6/9



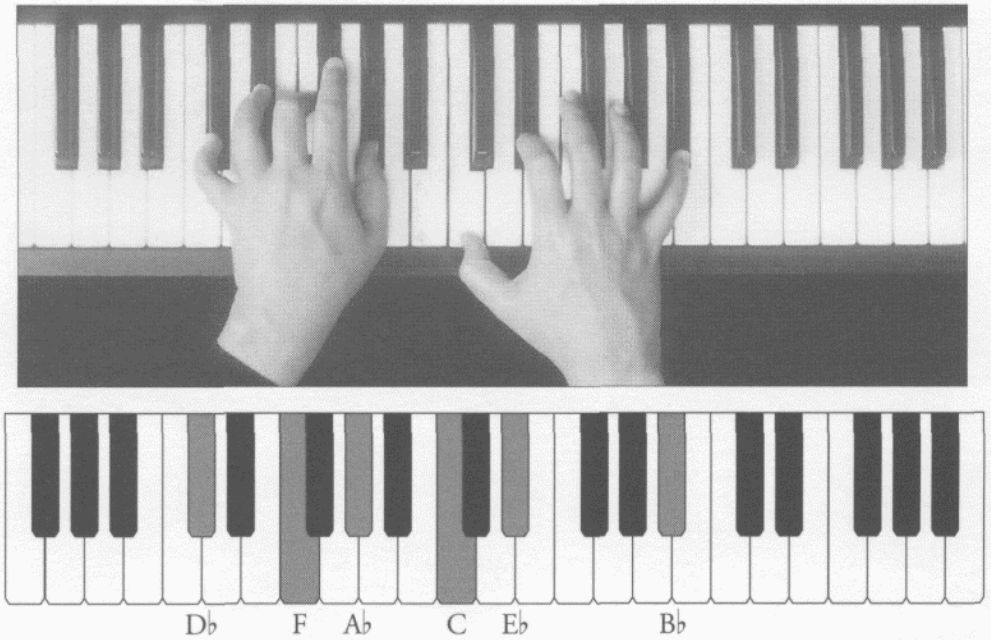
D♭ major9



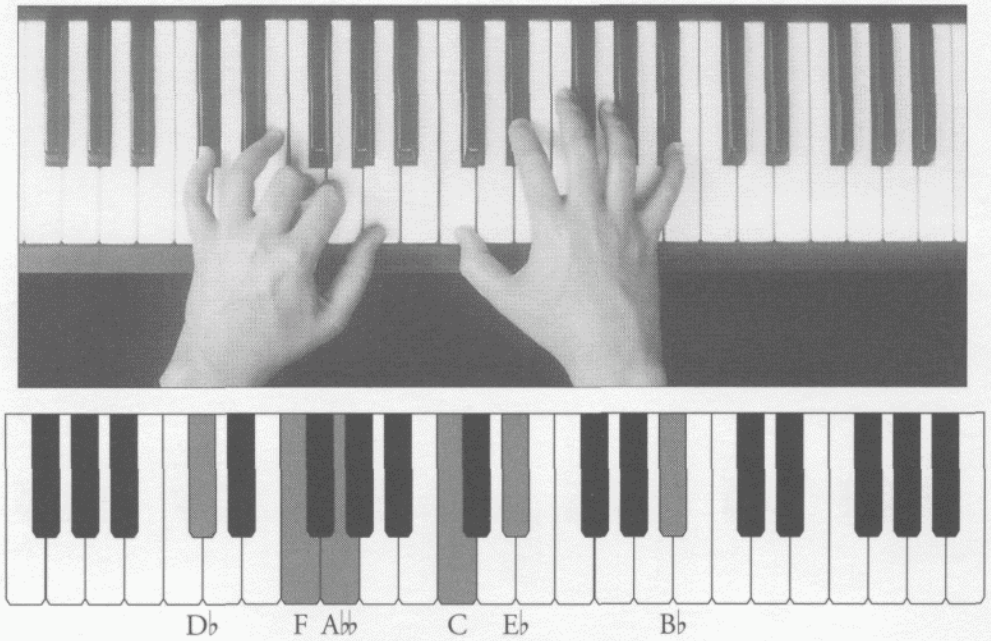
D♭ major9♯11



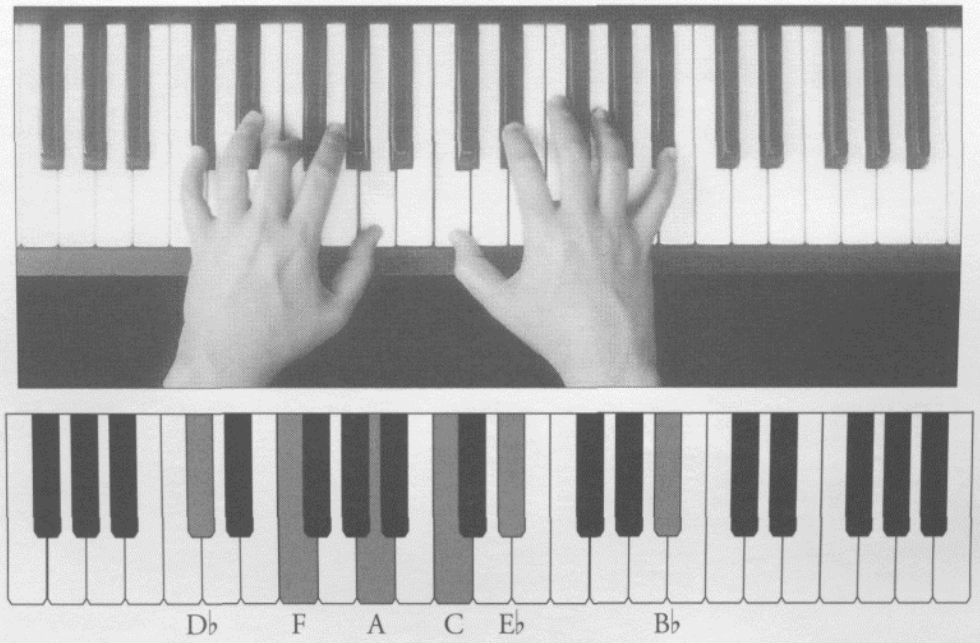
D♭ major13



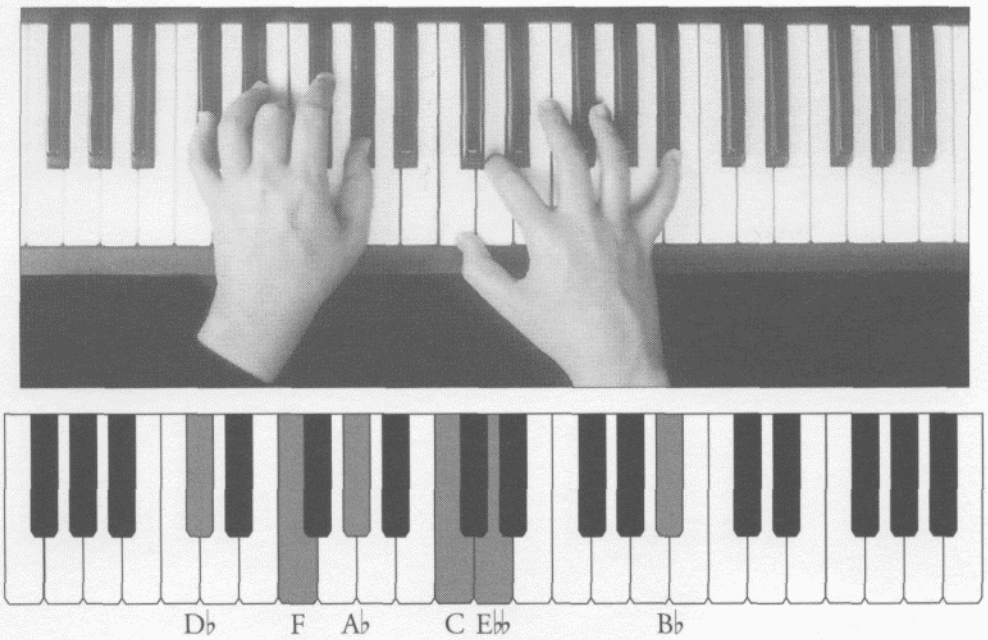
D♭ major13♭5



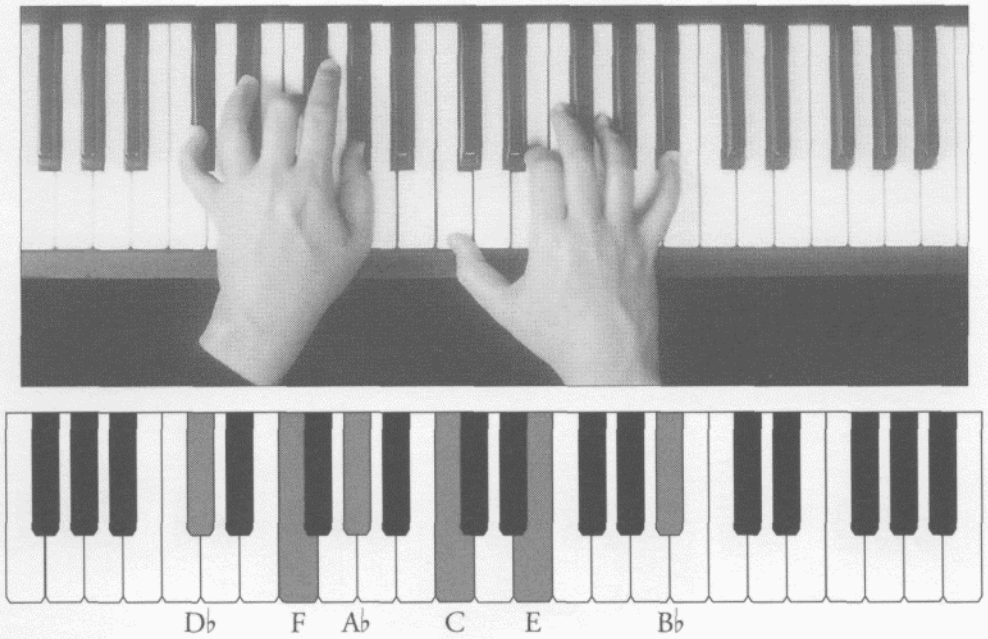
D♭ major13♯5



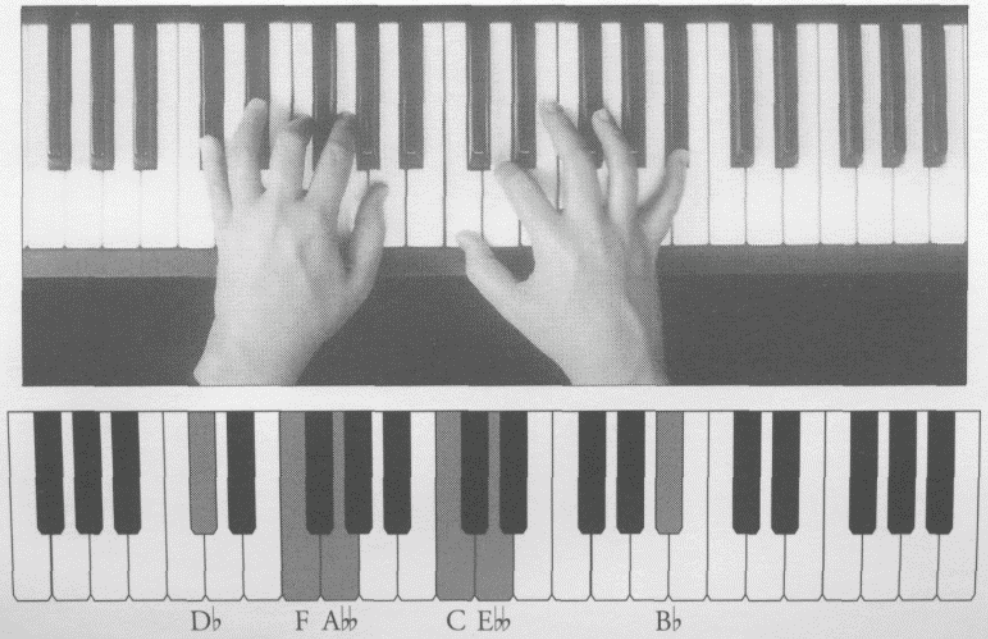
D♭ major13♭9



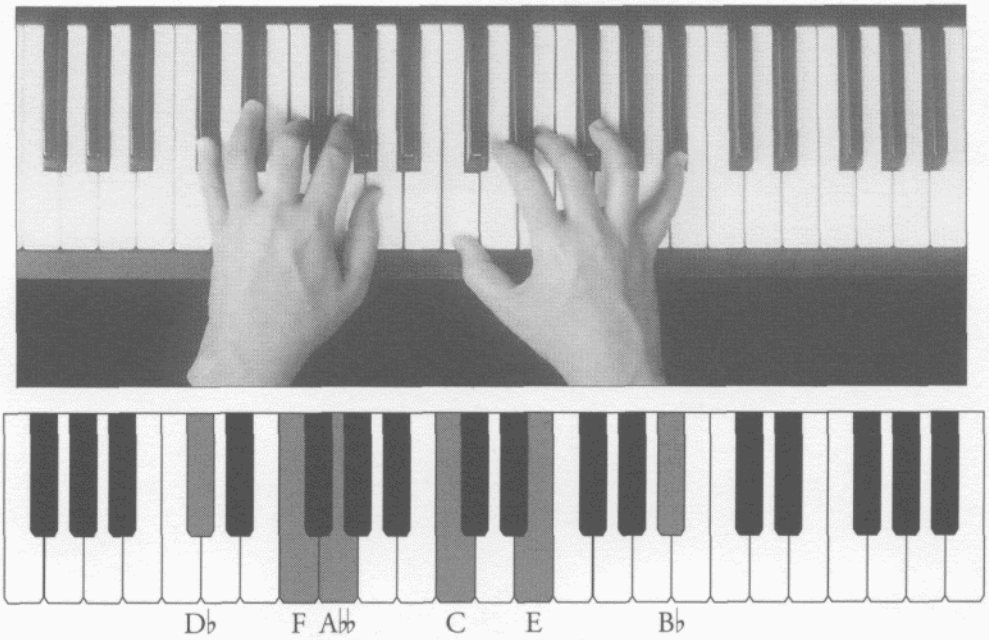
D♭ major13♯9



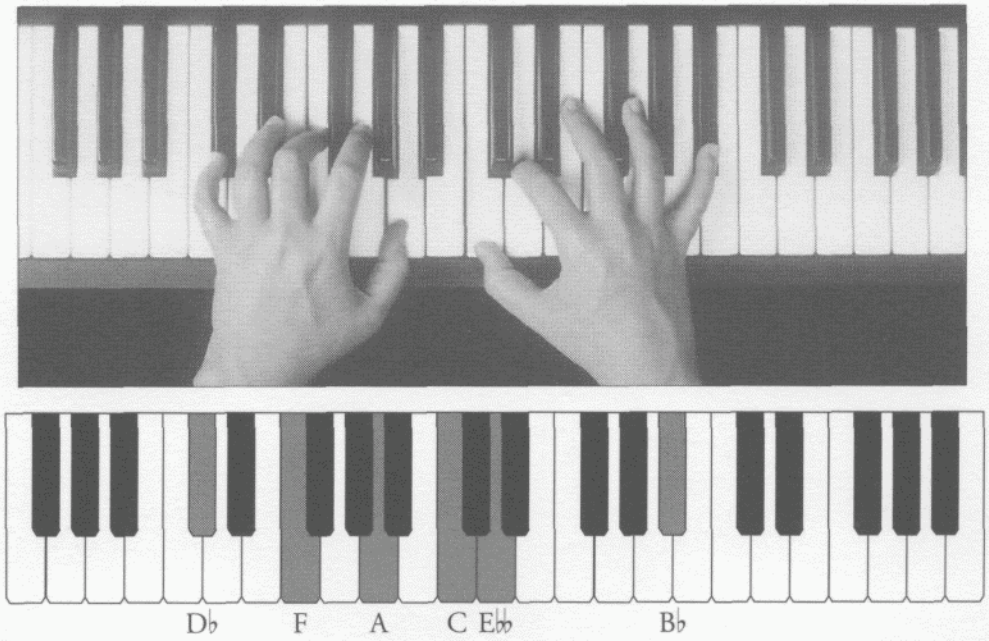
D♭ major13♭5♭9



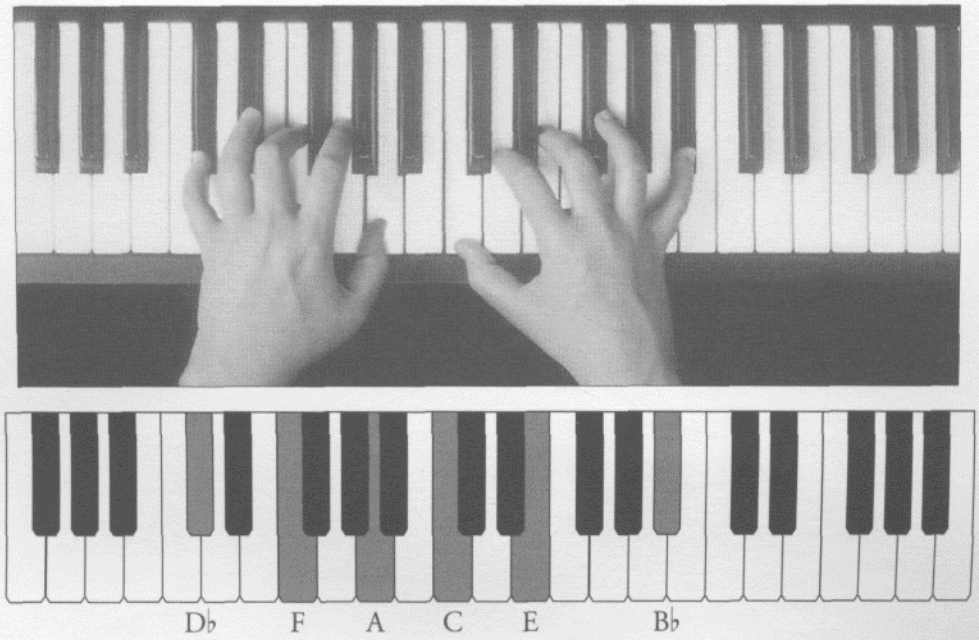
D♭ major13♭5♯9



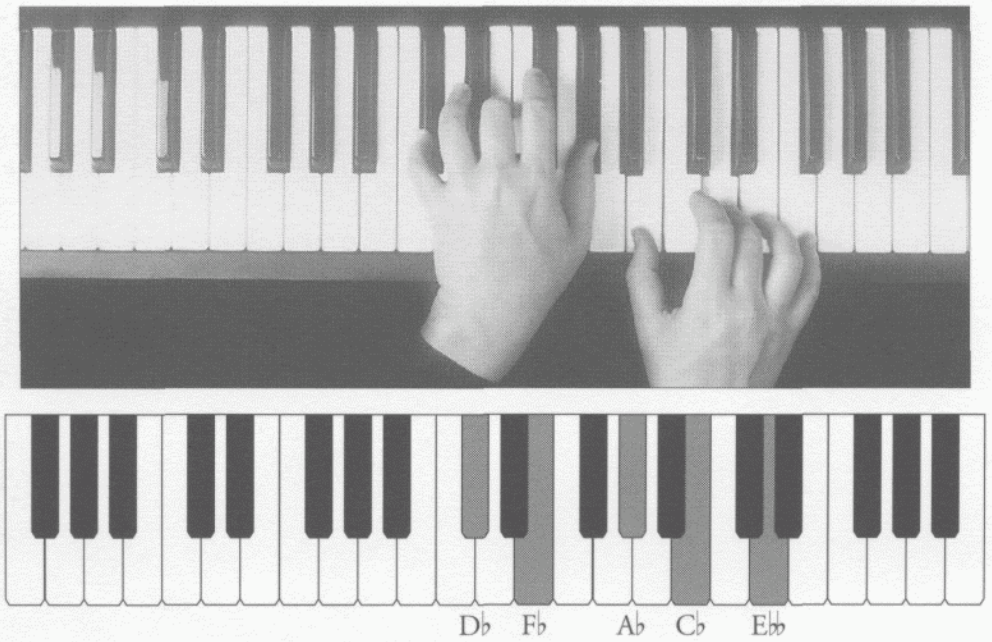
D♭ major13♯5♭9



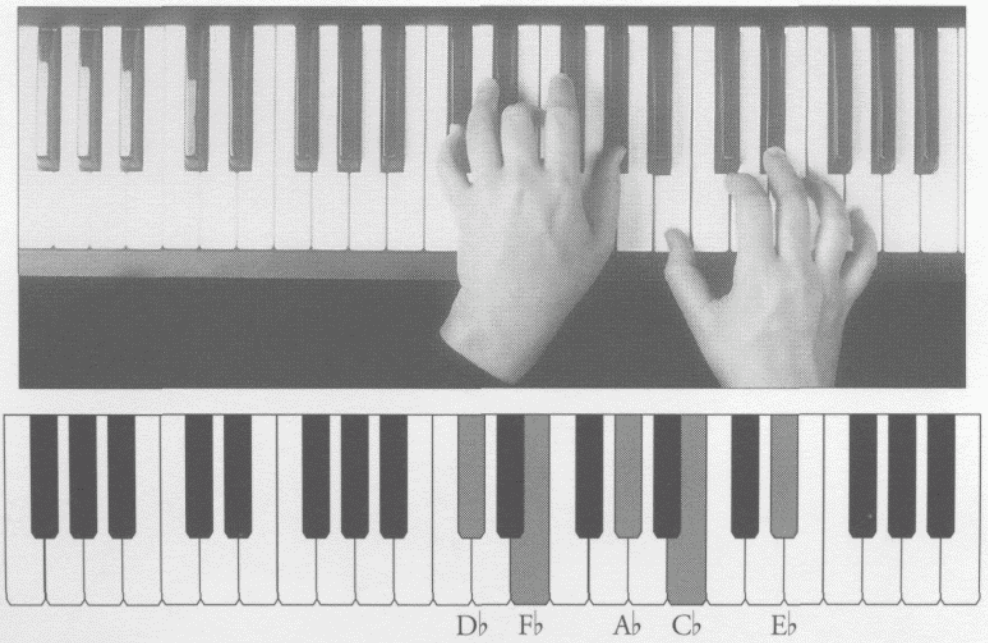
D♭ major13♯5♯9



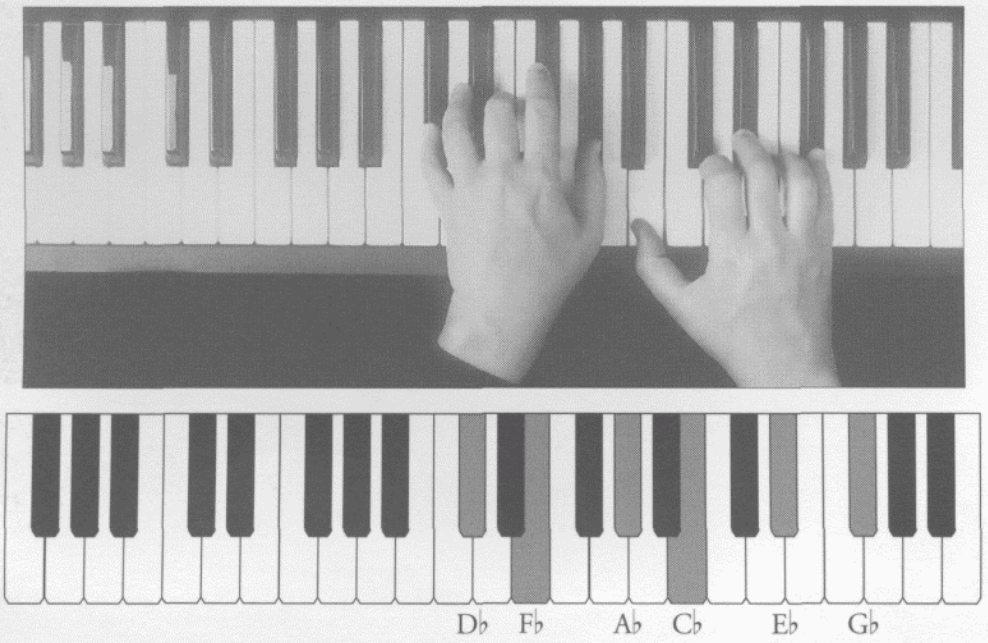
D♭ minor7♭9



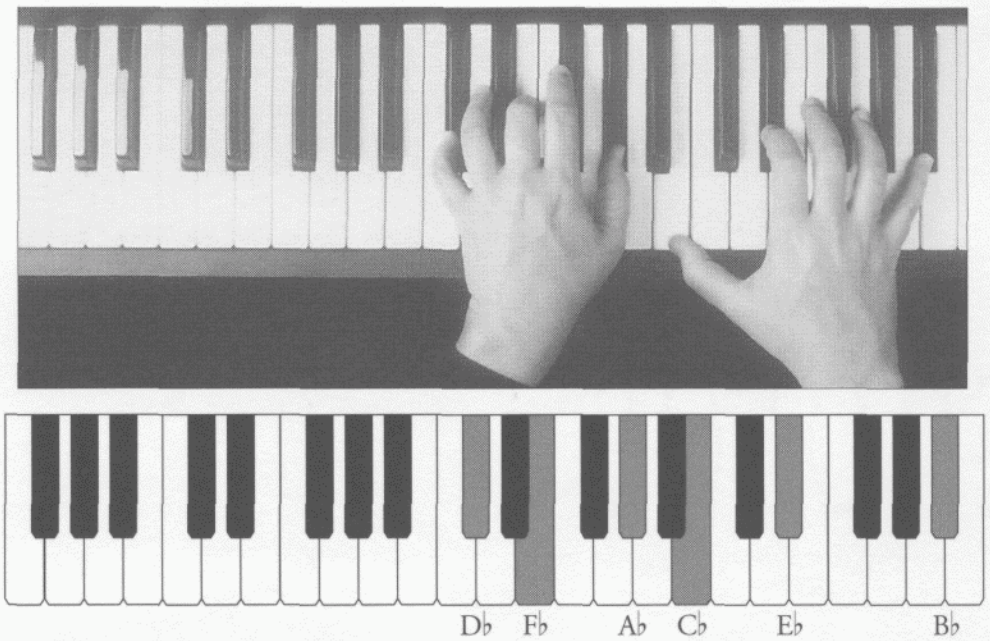
D♭ minor9



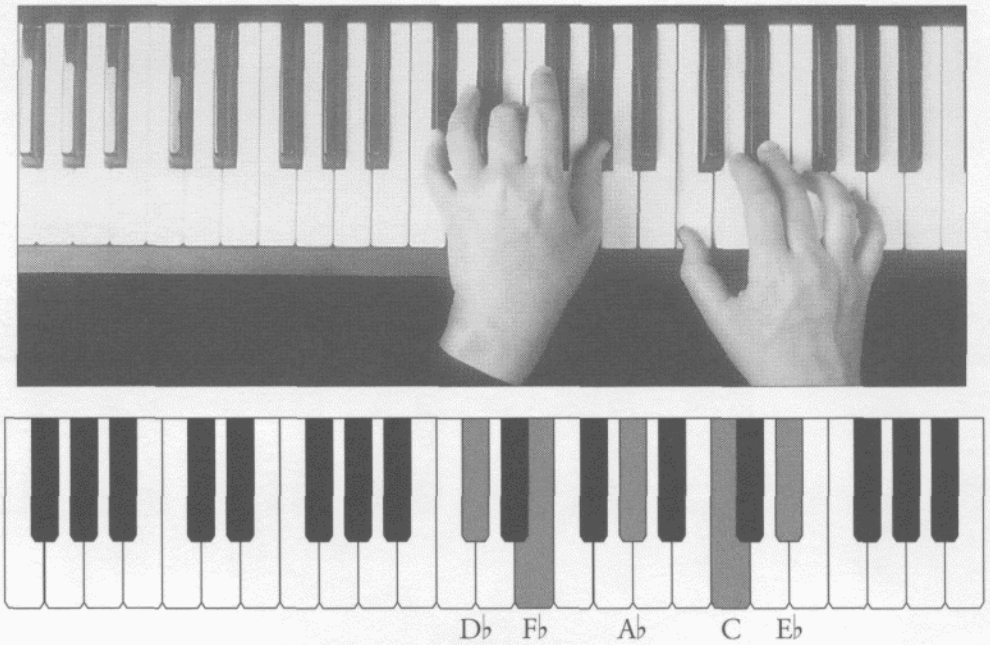
D♭ minor11



D♭ minor13

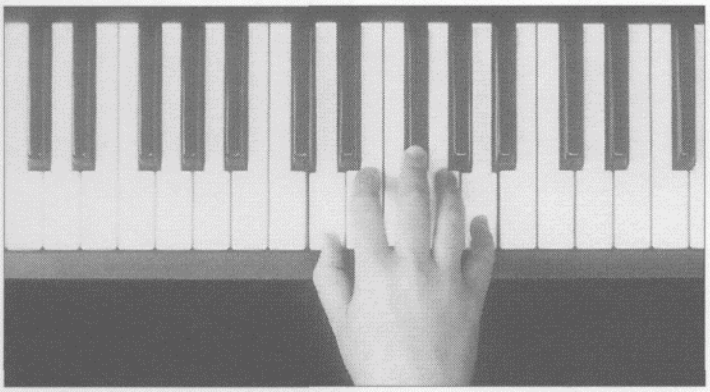


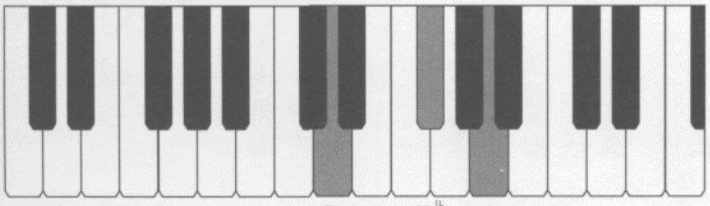
D♭ minor9 (major7)



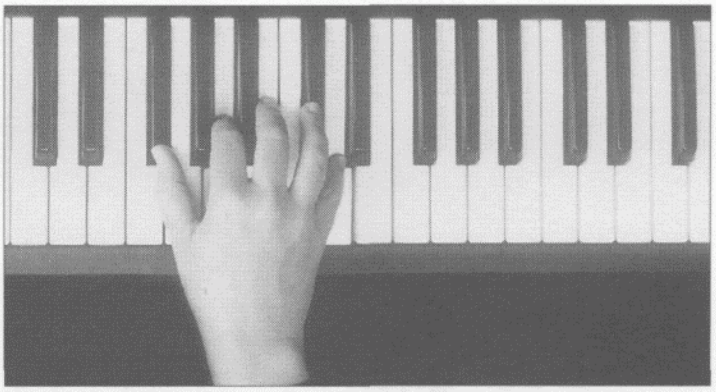
D chords

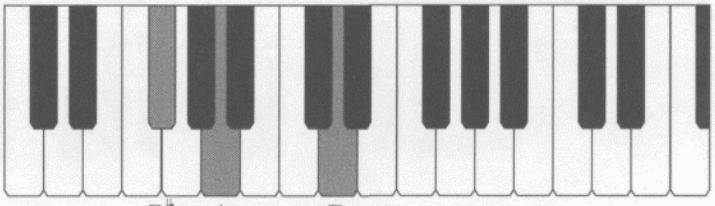
D major



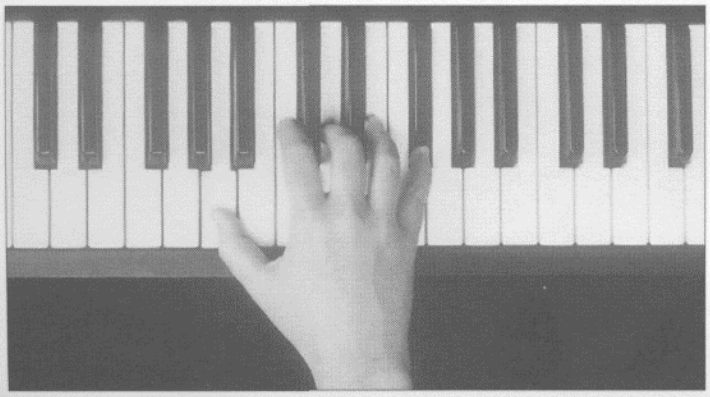


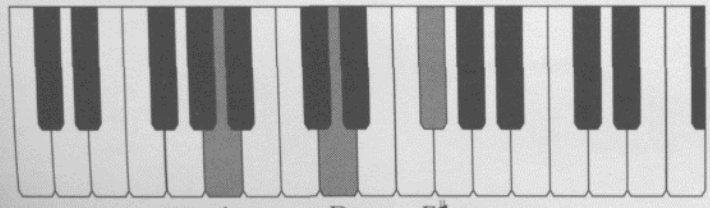
D/F♯ *first inversion*



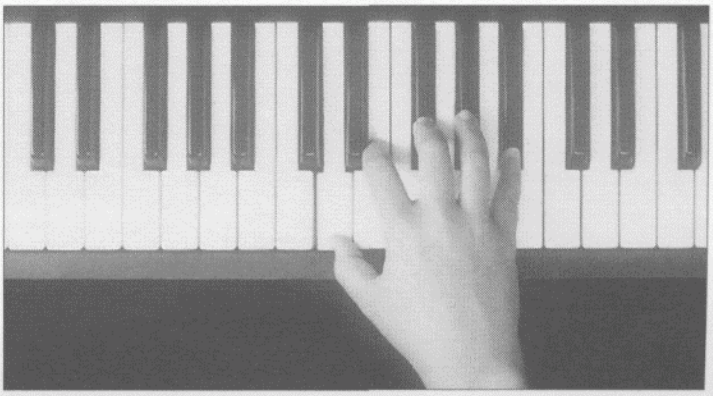


D/A *second inversion*

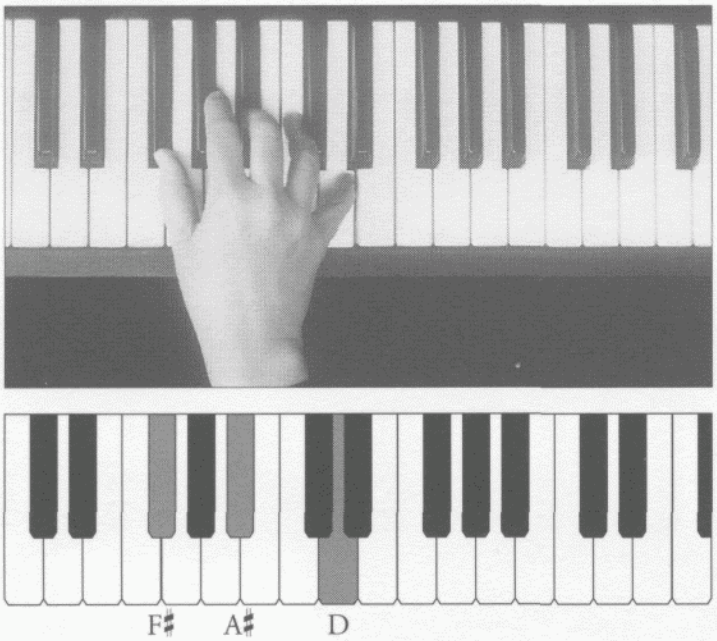




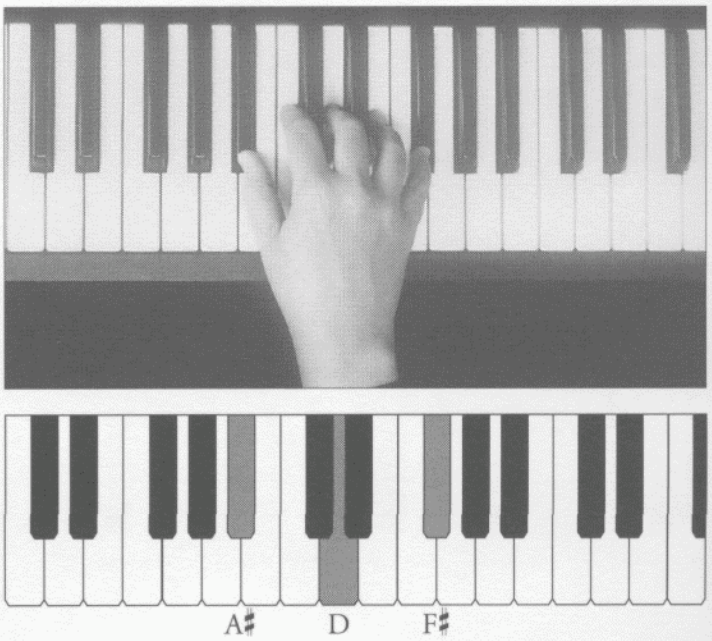
D augmented



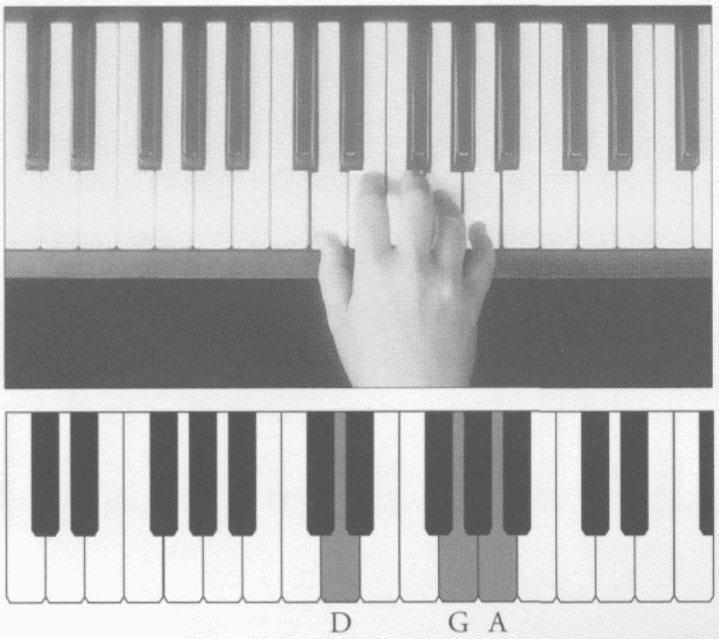
D augmented *first inversion*



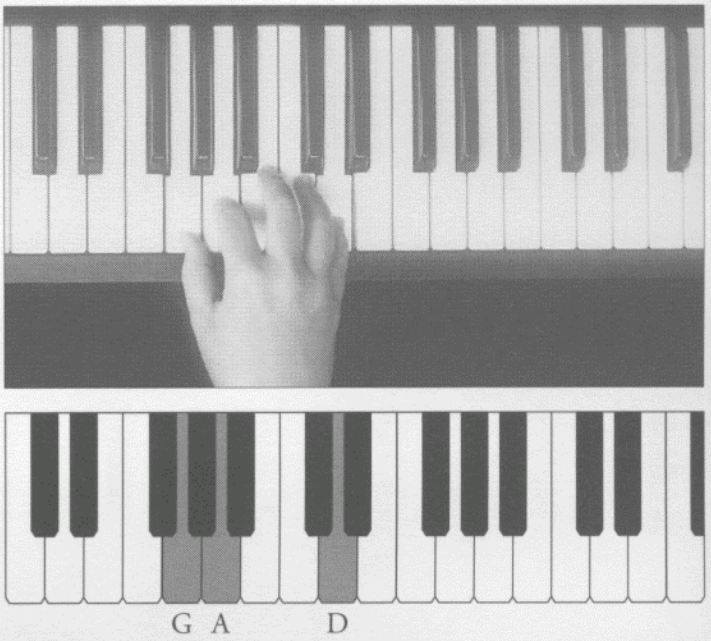
D augmented *second inversion*



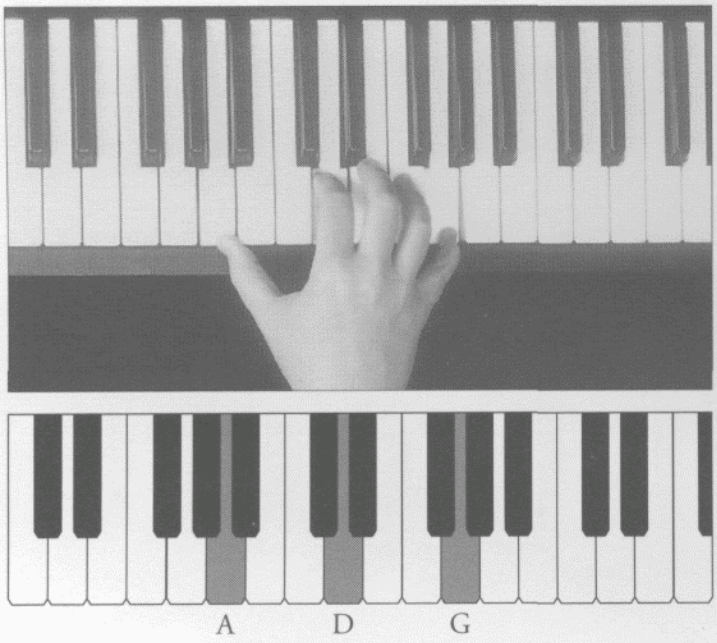
Dsus4



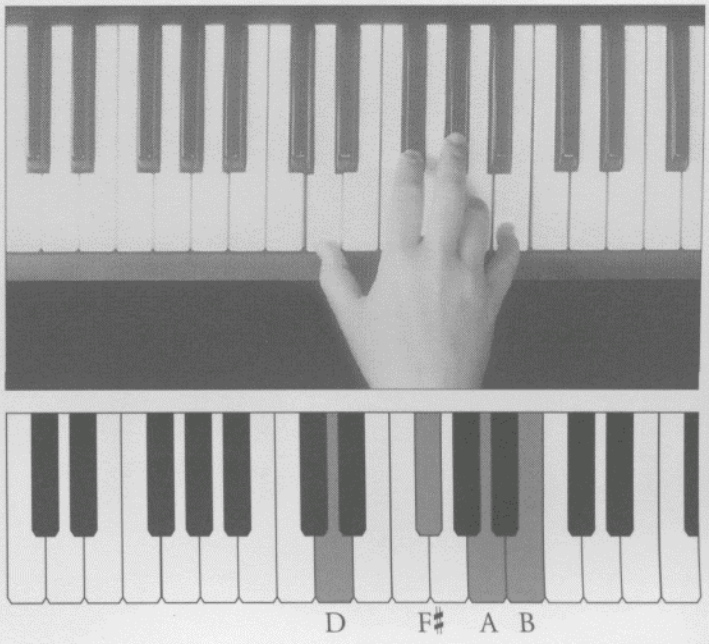
Dsus4 *first inversion*



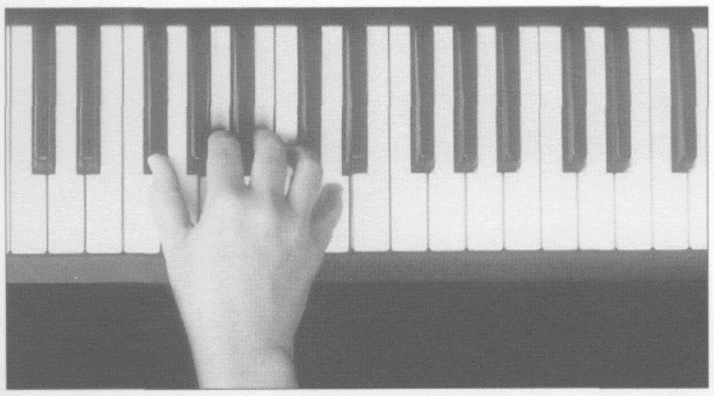
Dsus4 *second inversion*

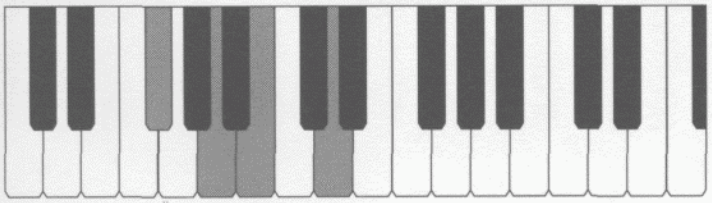


D6



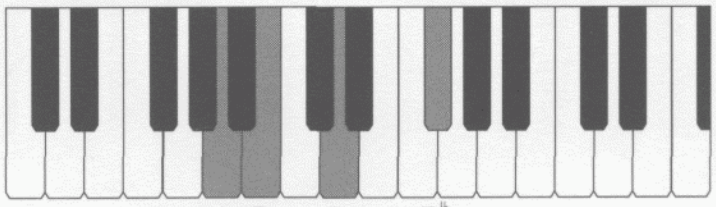
D6 *first inversion*





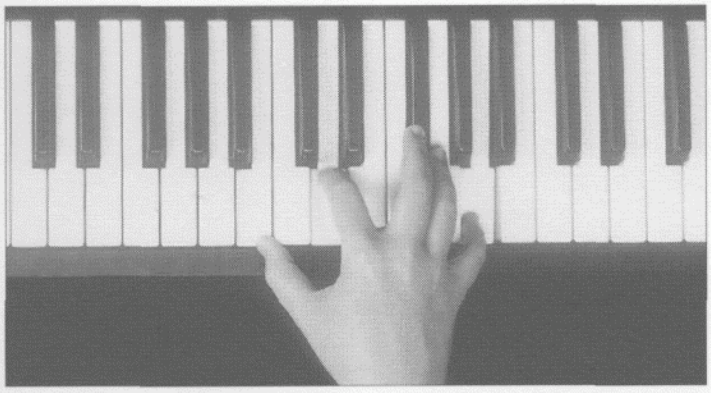
F♯ A B D

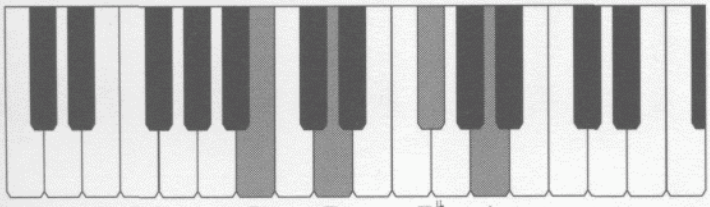
D6 *second inversion*



A B D F♯

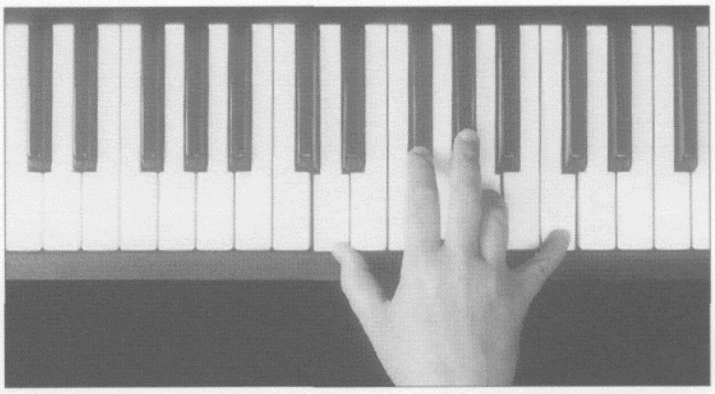
D6 *third inversion*





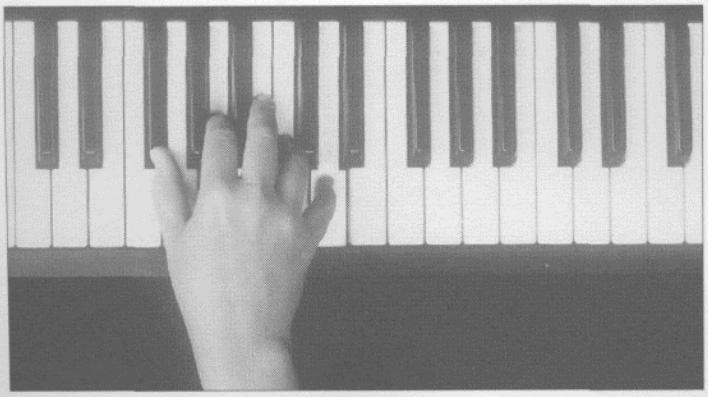
B D F♯ A

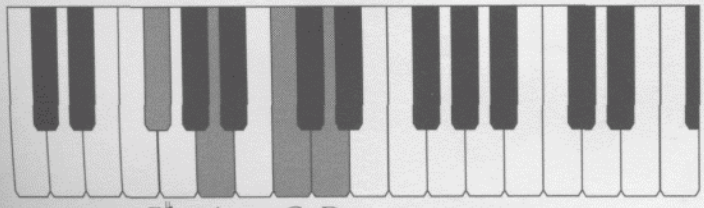
D7



D F♯ A C

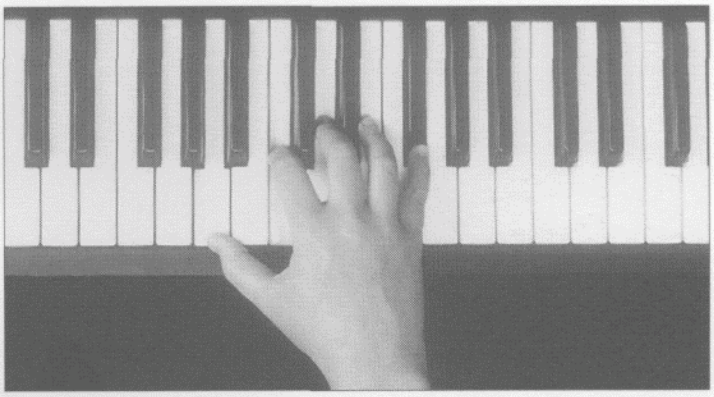
D7 *first inversion*

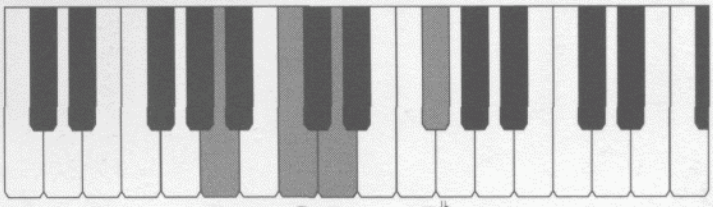




F♯ A C D

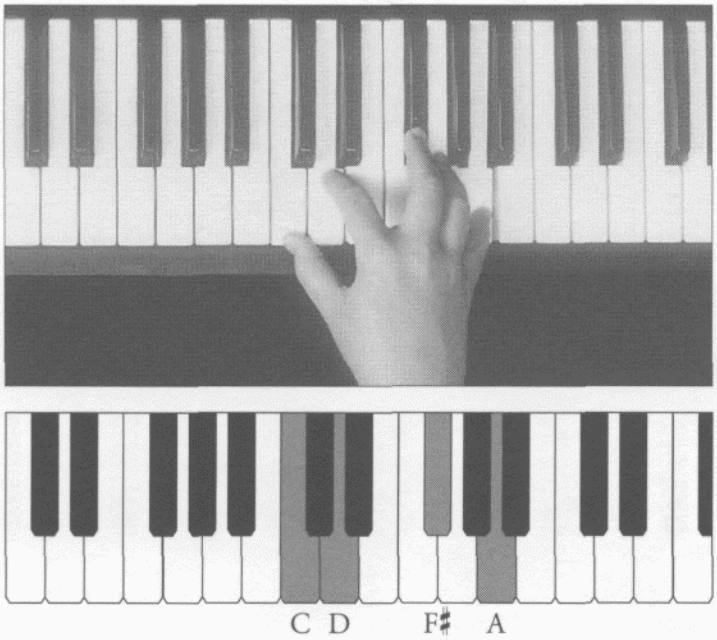
D7 *second inversion*



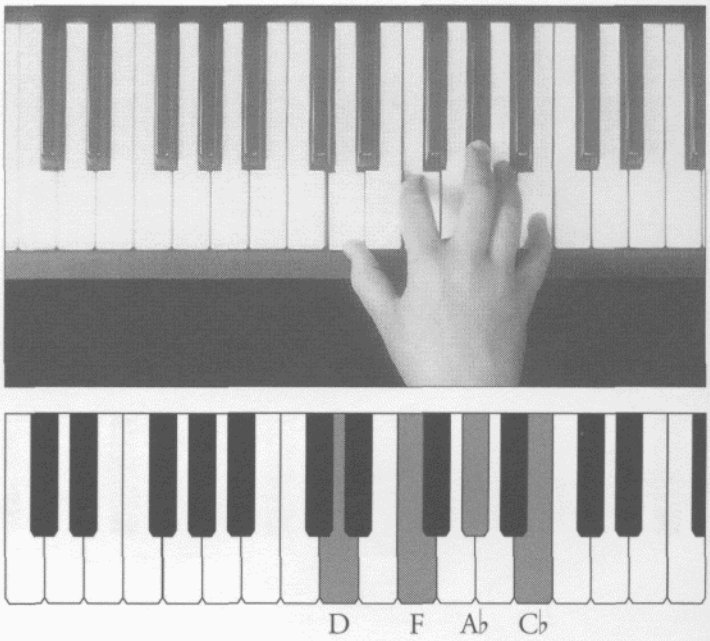


A C D F♯

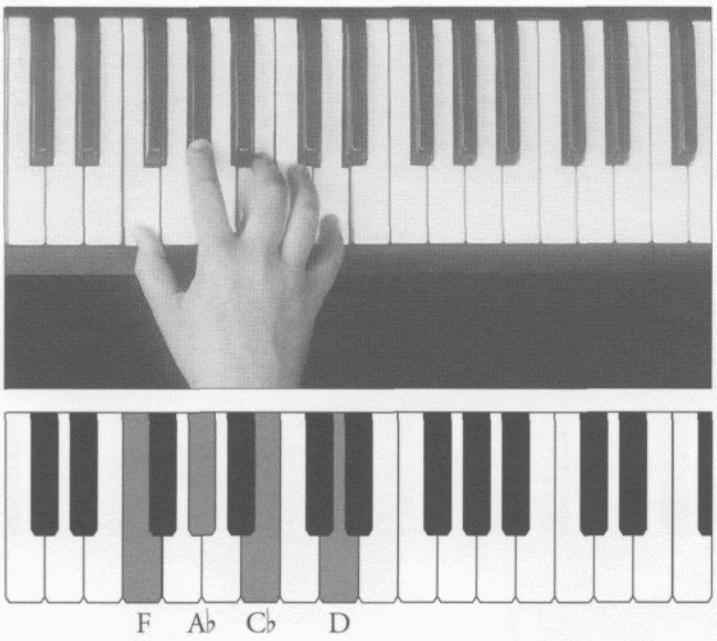
D7 *third inversion*



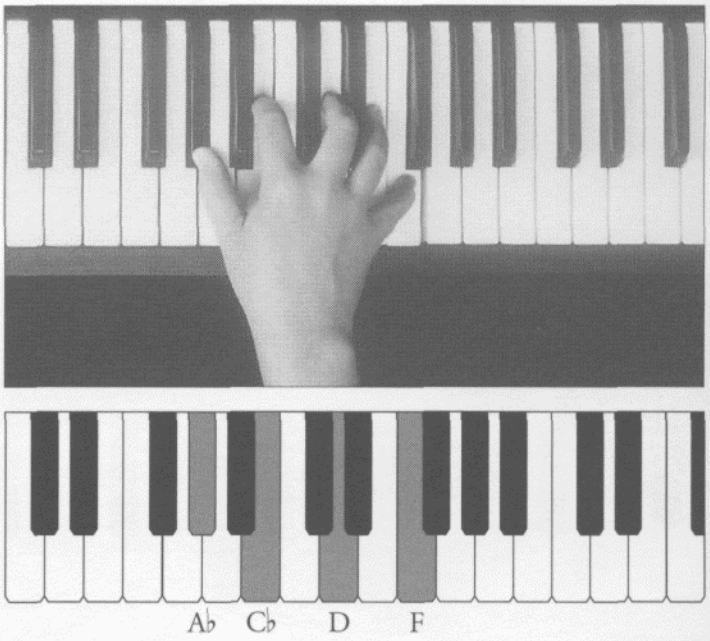
D°7



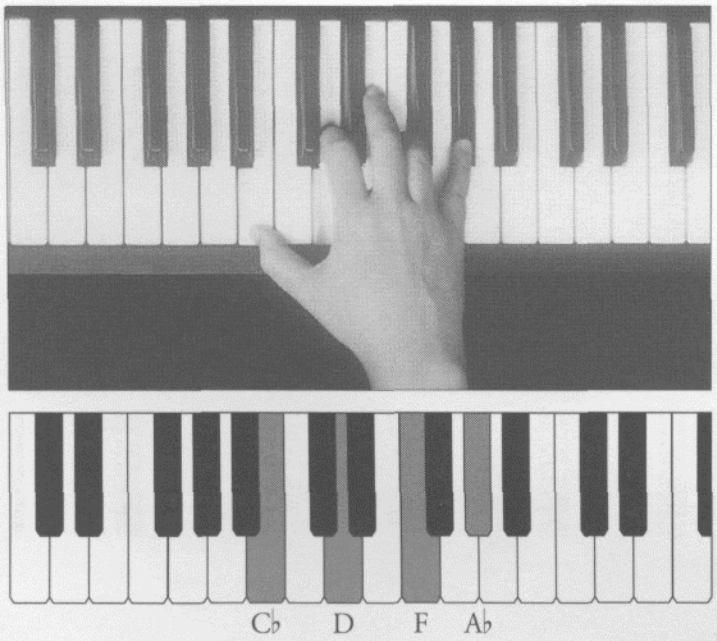
D°7 *first inversion*



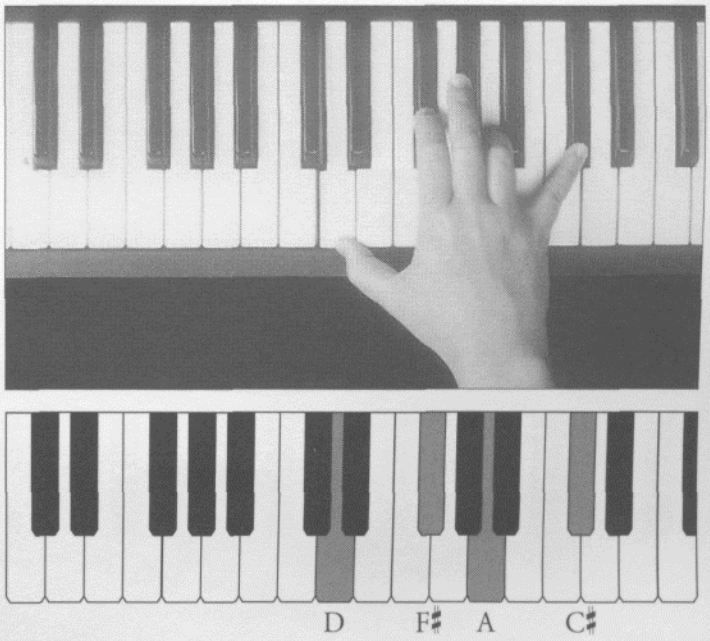
D°7 *second inversion*



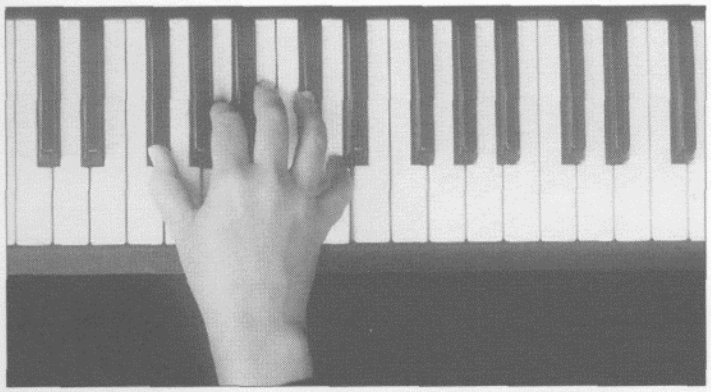
D°7 *third inversion*

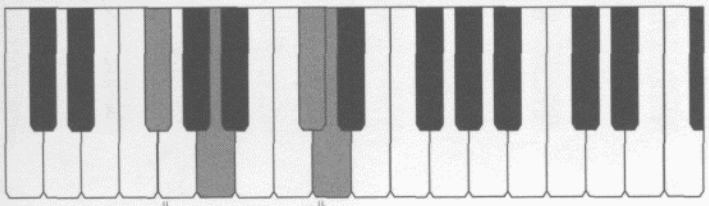


D major7

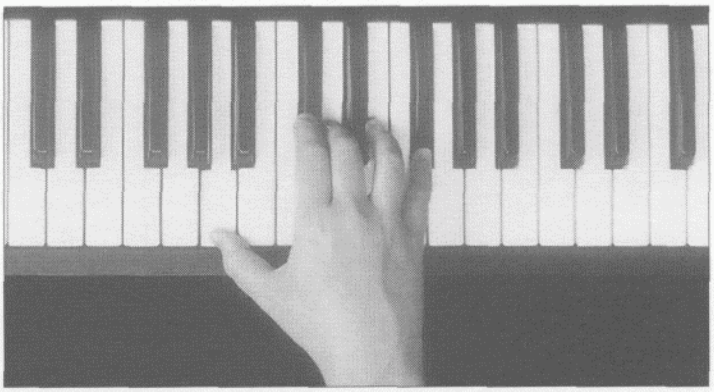


D major7 *first inversion*



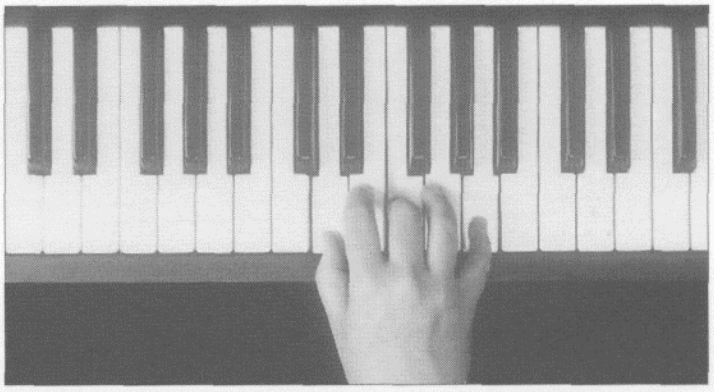


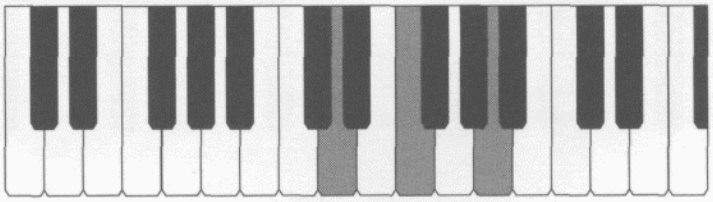
D major7 *second inversion*



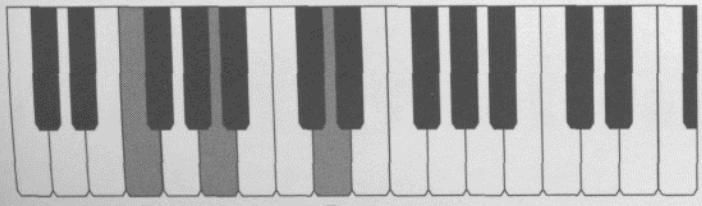
D major7 *third inversion*

D minor

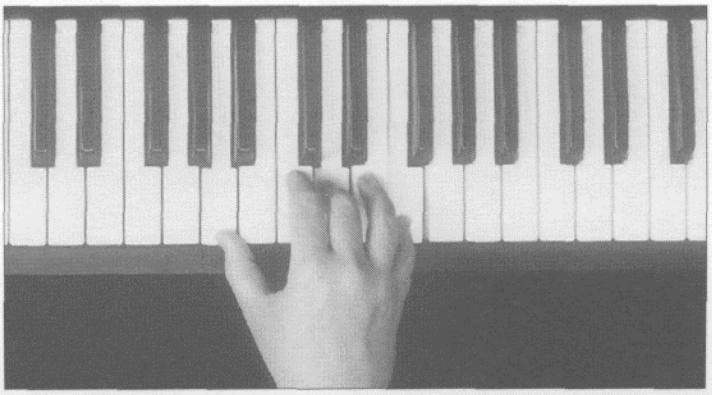


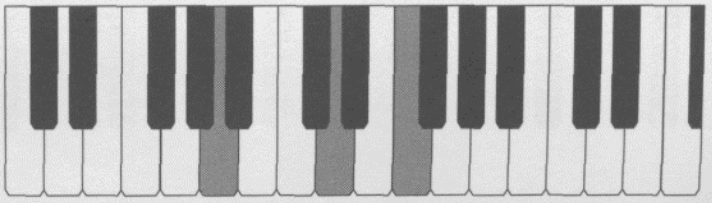


D minor *first inversion*

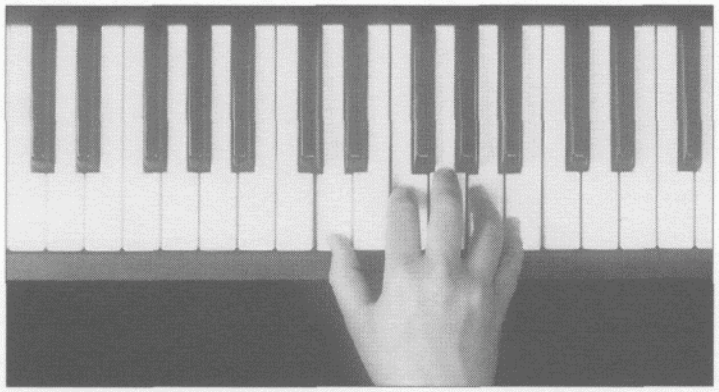


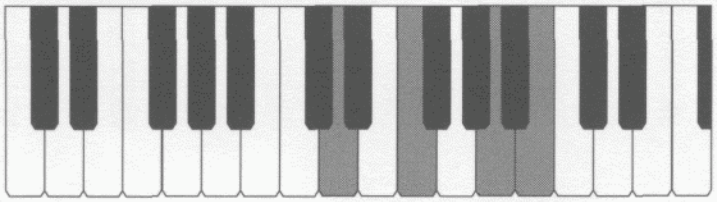
D minor *second inversion*



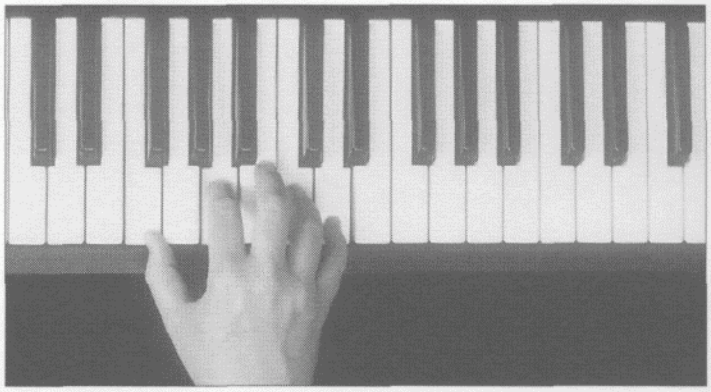


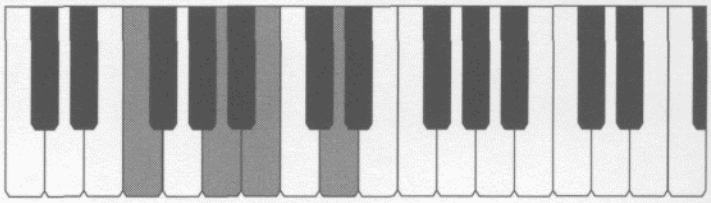
D minor6



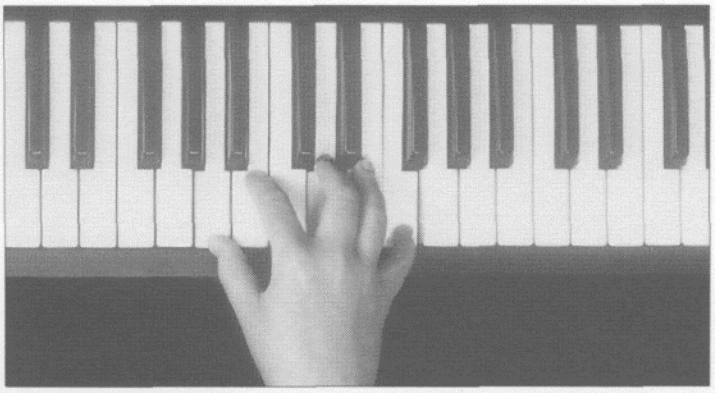


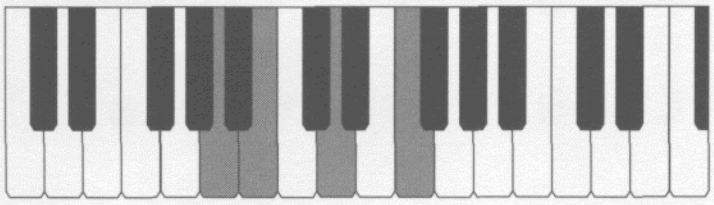
D minor6 *first inversion*



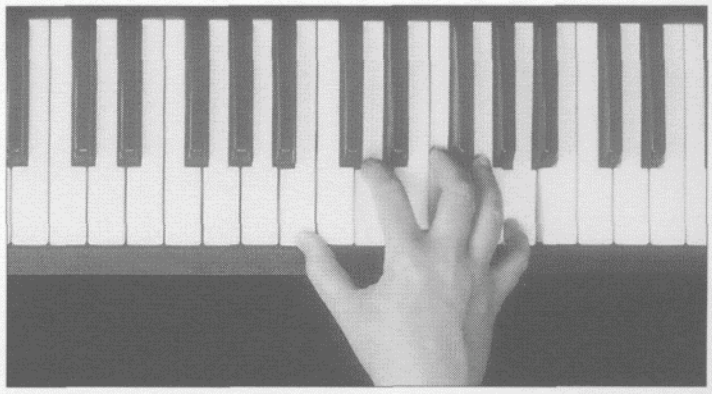


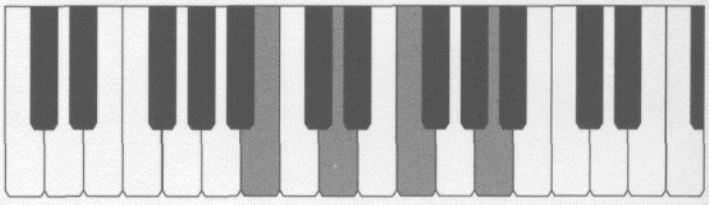
D minor6 *second inversion*



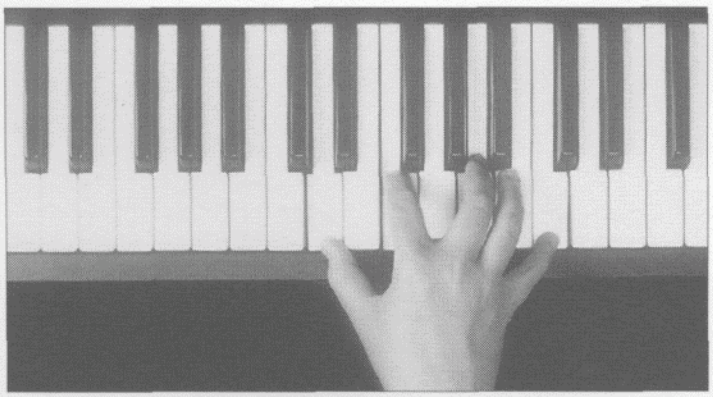


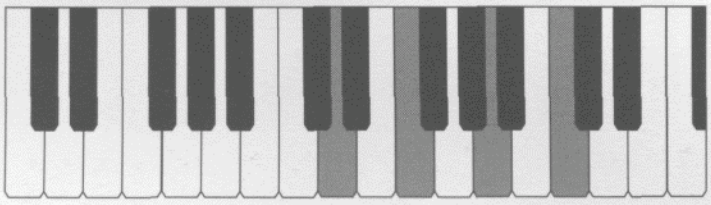
D minor6 *third inversion*



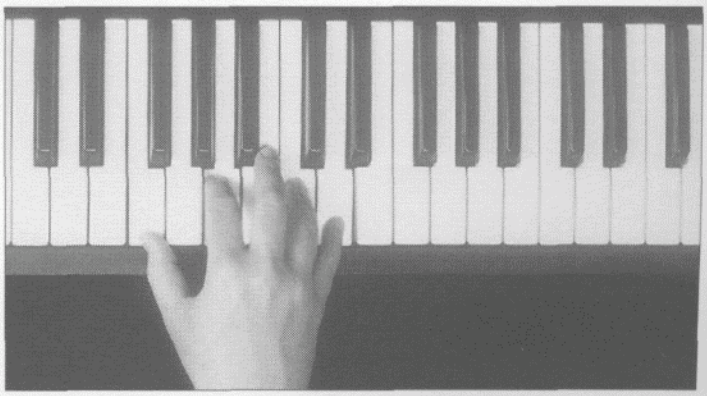


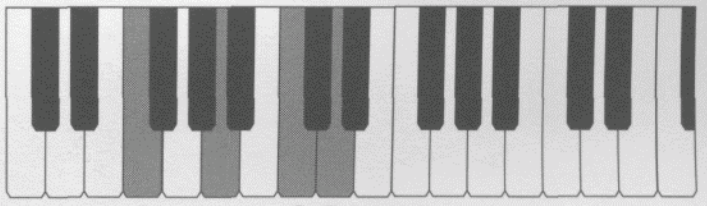
D minor7



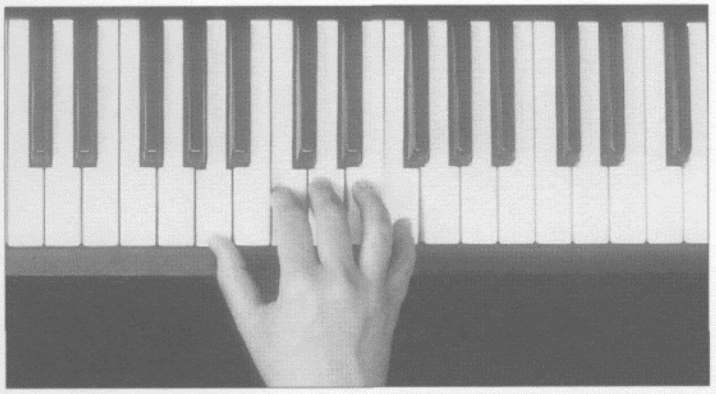


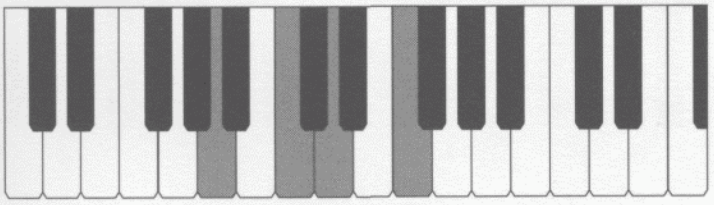
D minor7 *first inversion*



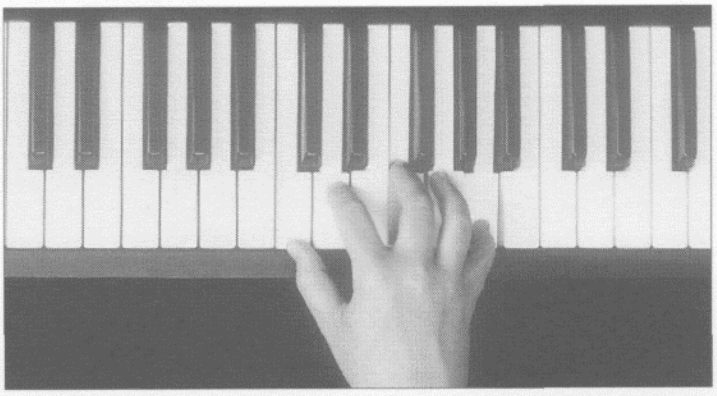


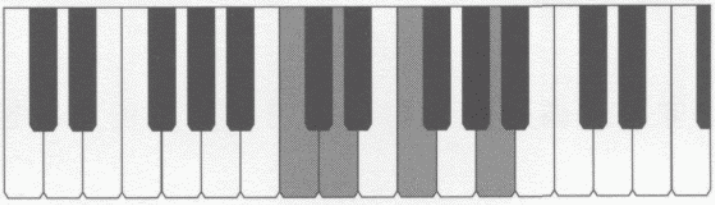
D minor7 *second inversion*



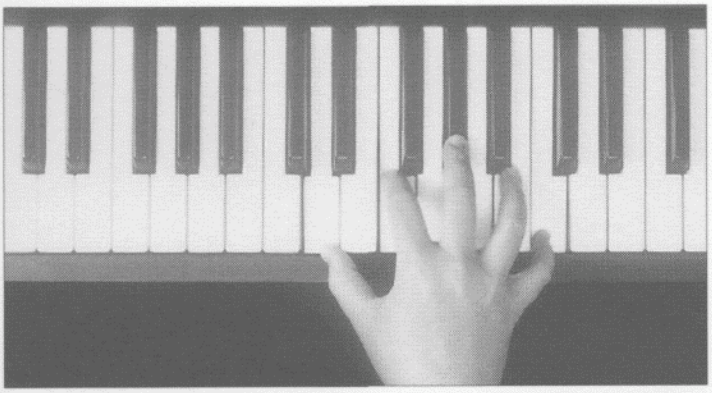


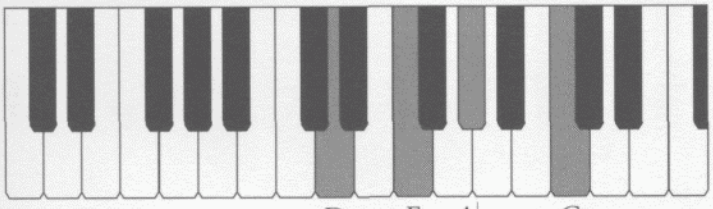
D minor7 *third inversion*



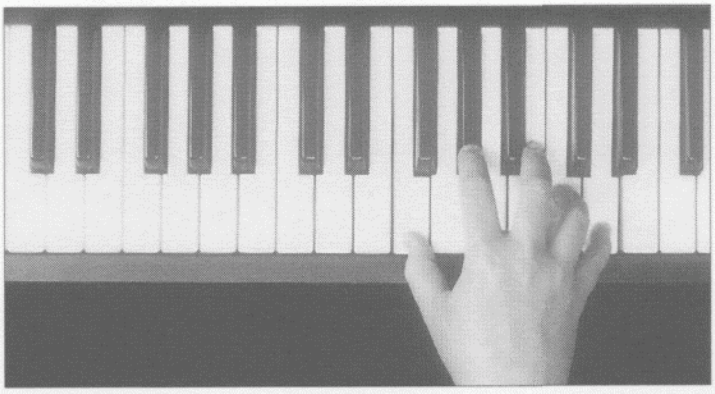


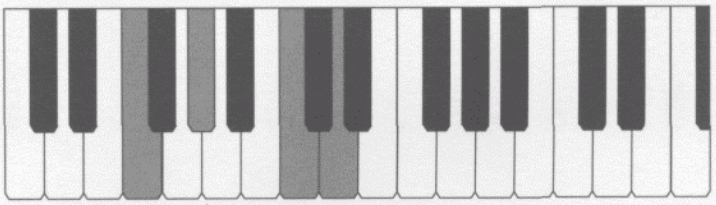
D minor7♭5



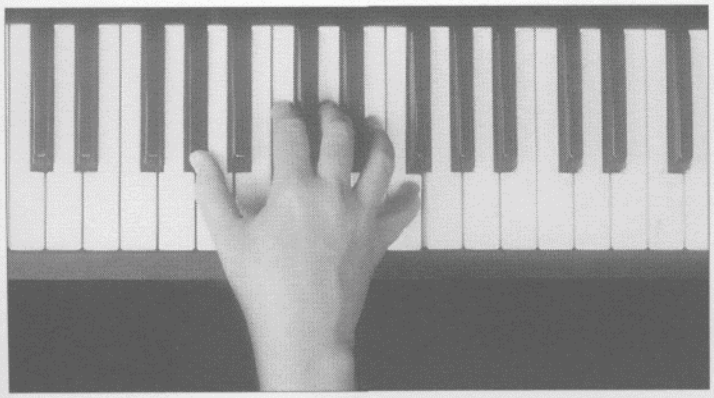


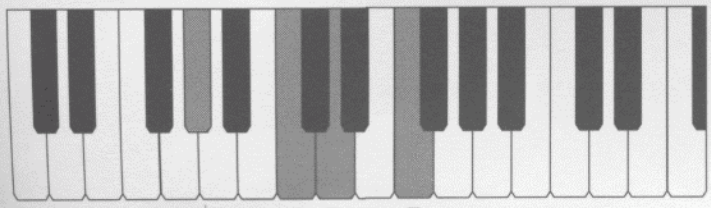
D minor7♭5 *first inversion*



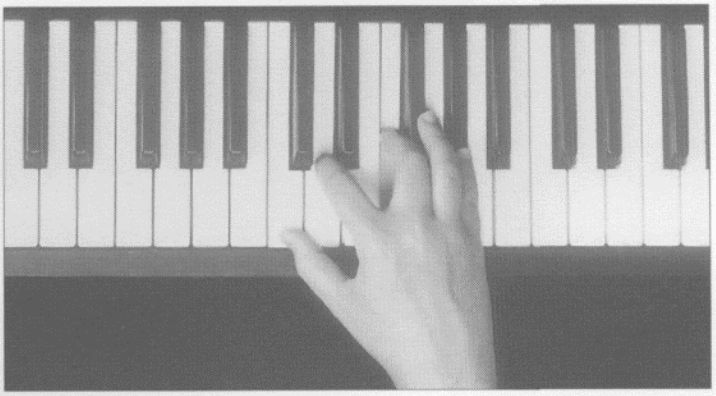


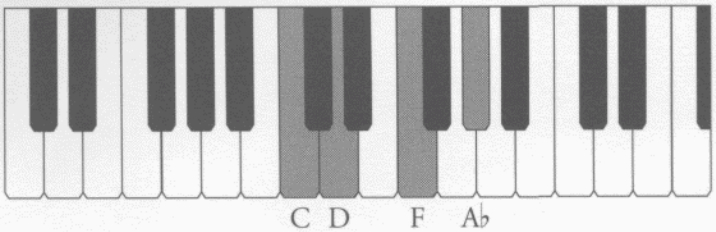
D minor7♭5 *second inversion*



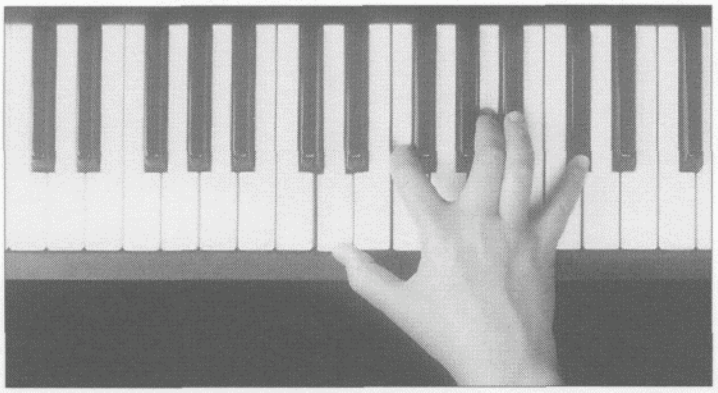


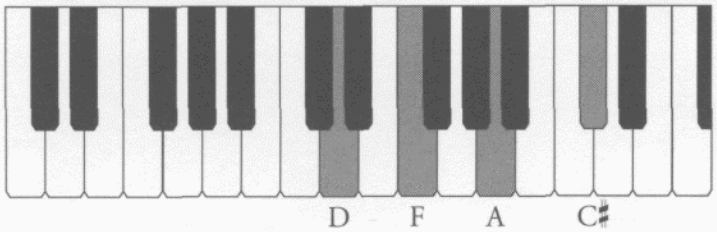
D minor7♭5 *third inversion*



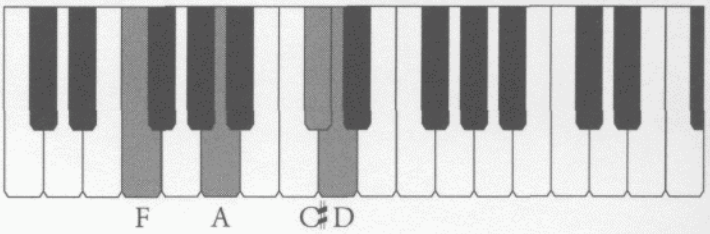


D minor (major7)

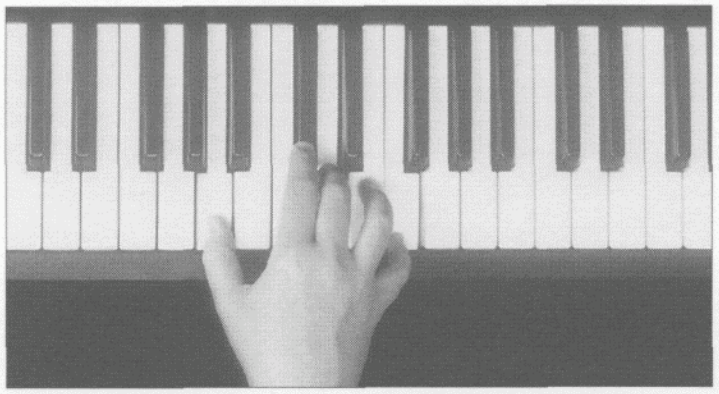


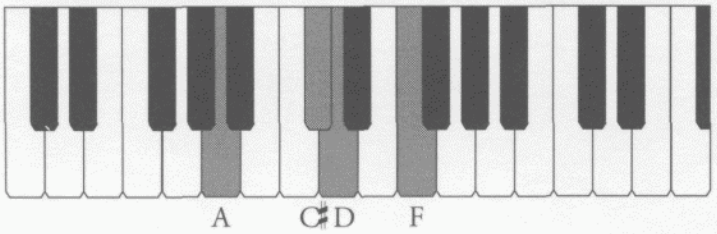


D minor (major7) *first inversion*

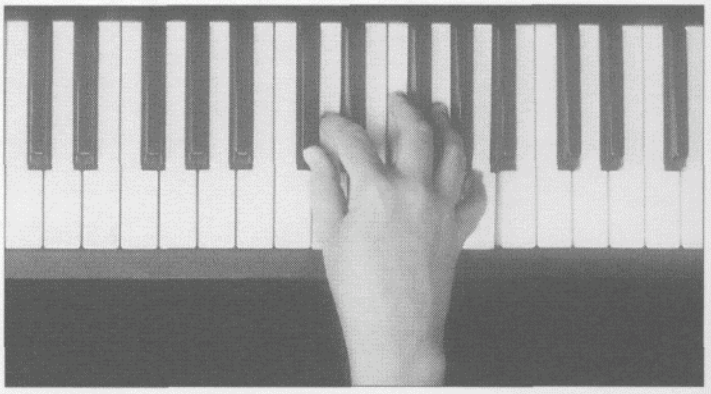


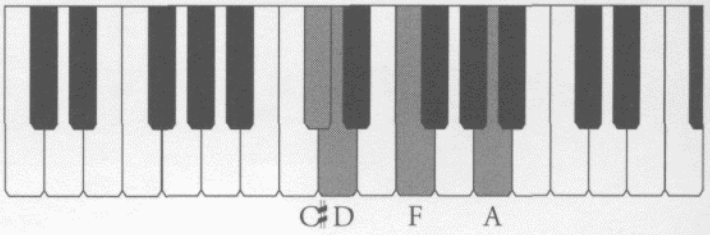
D minor (major7) *second inversion*





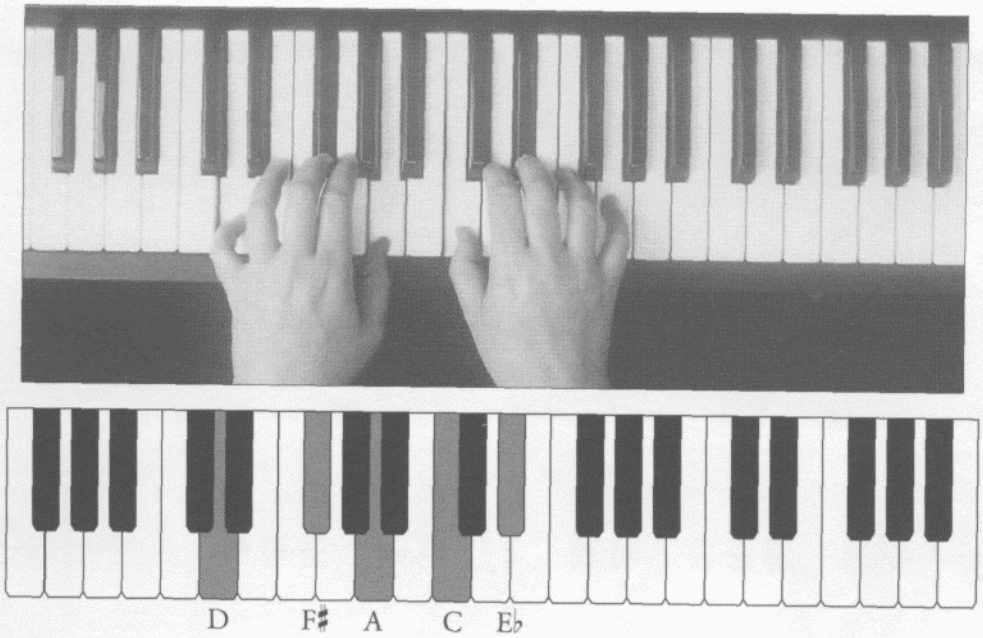
D minor (major7) *third inversion*



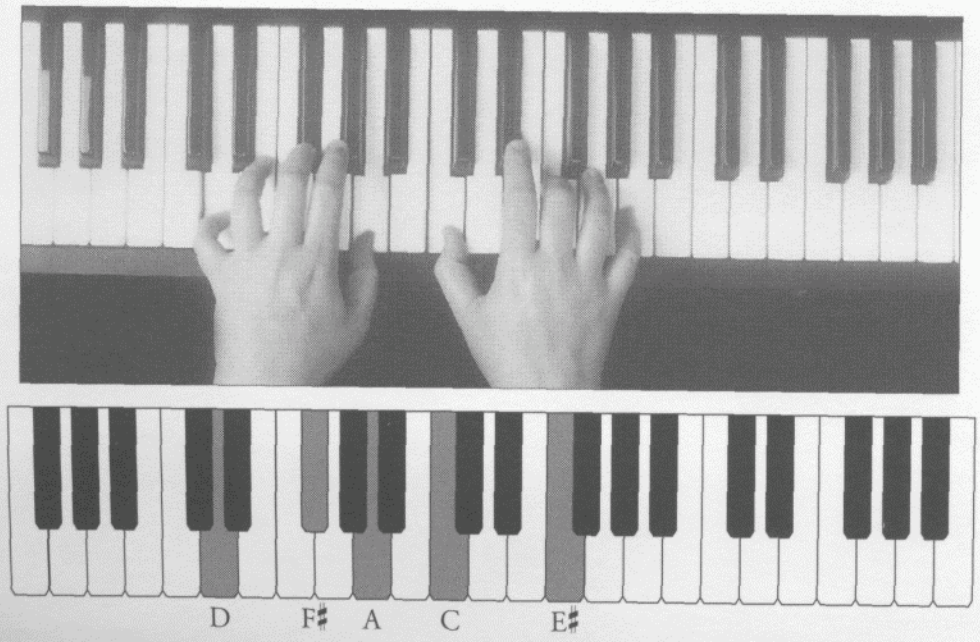


D chords
using both hands

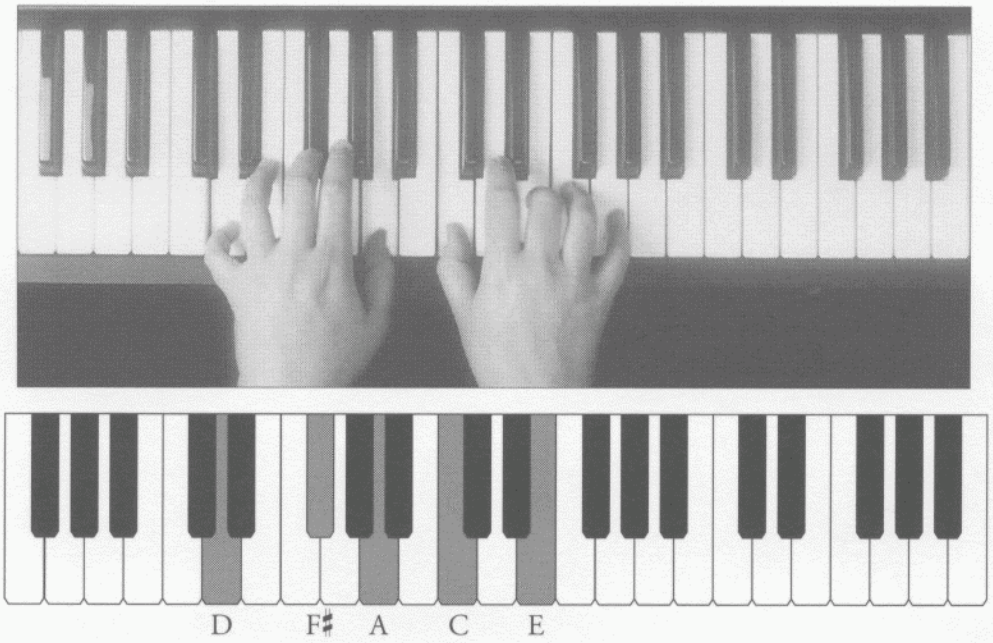
D7♭9



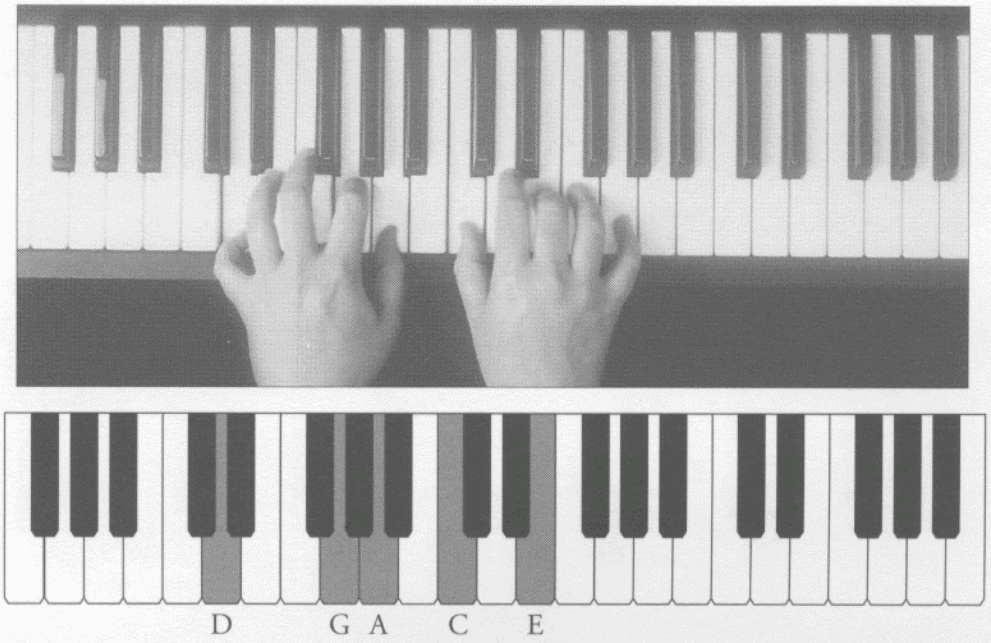
D7♯9



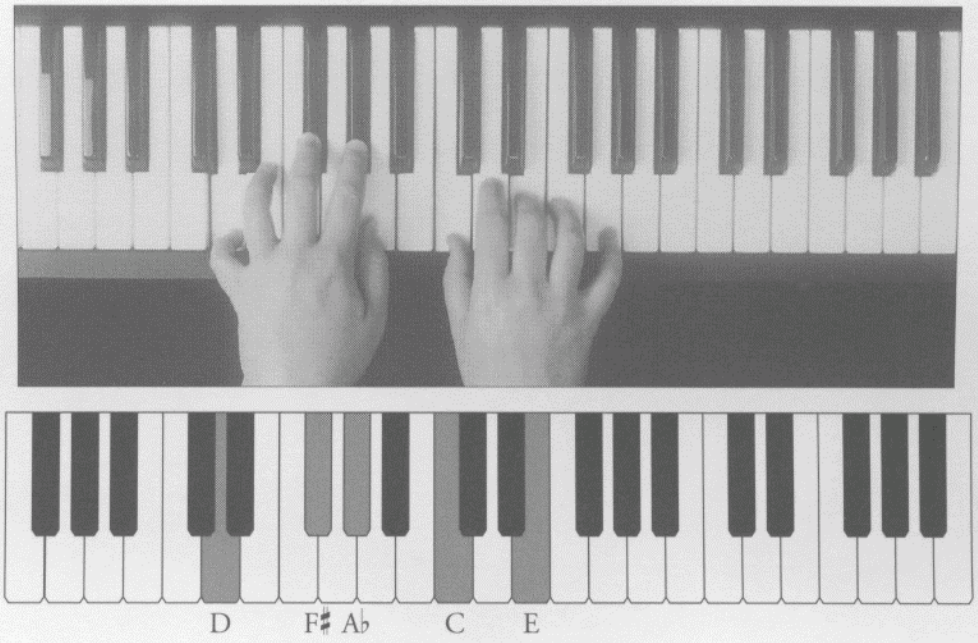
D9



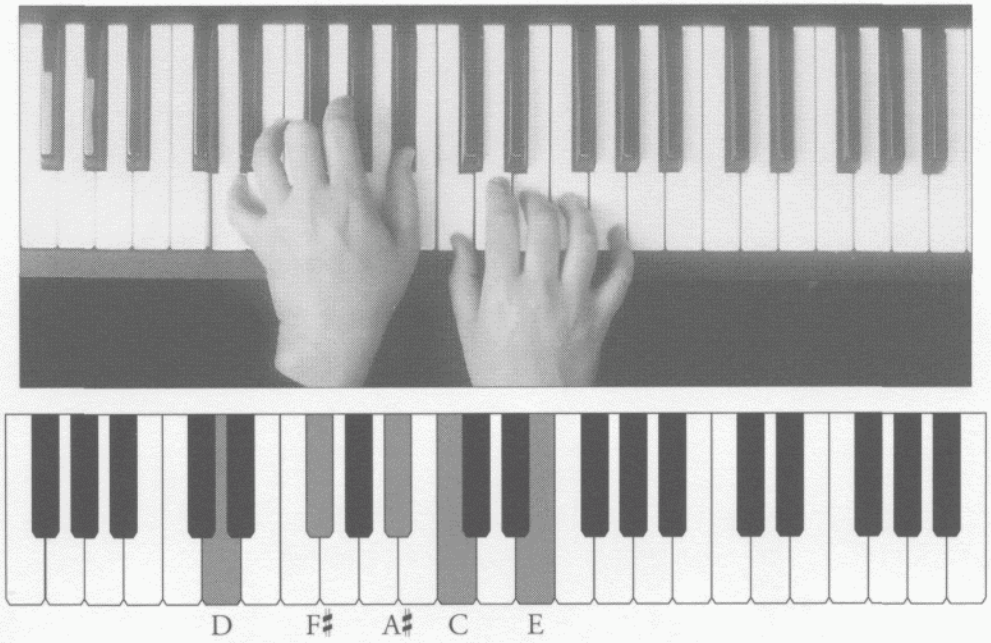
D9sus4



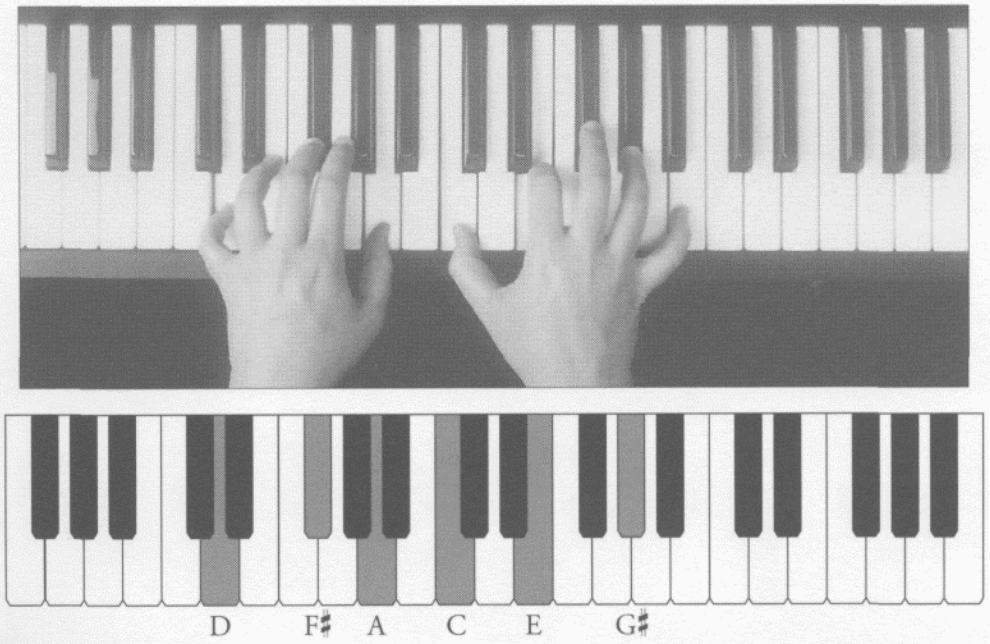
D9♭5



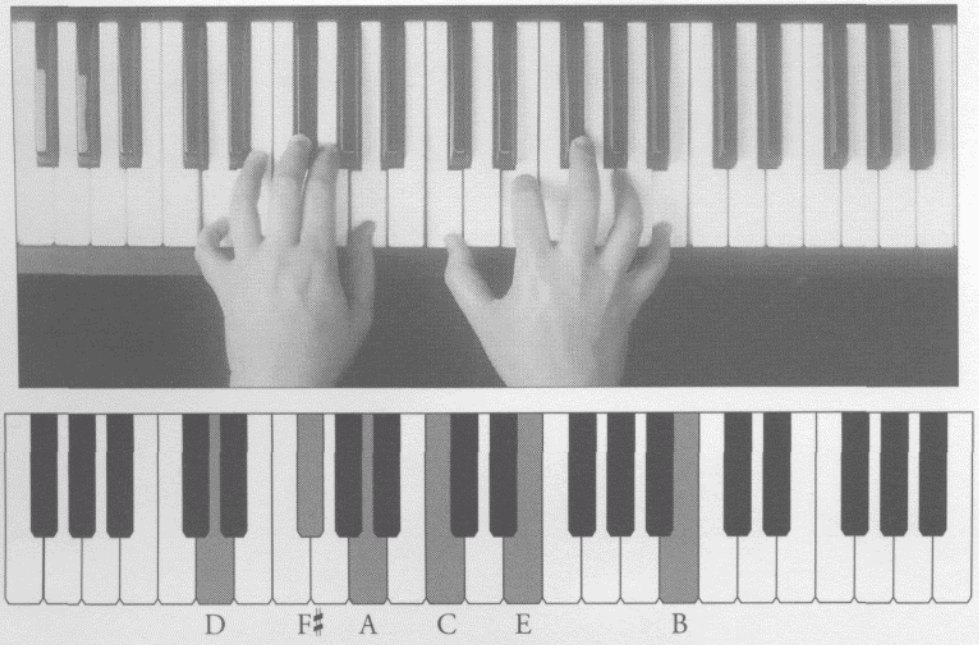
D9♯5



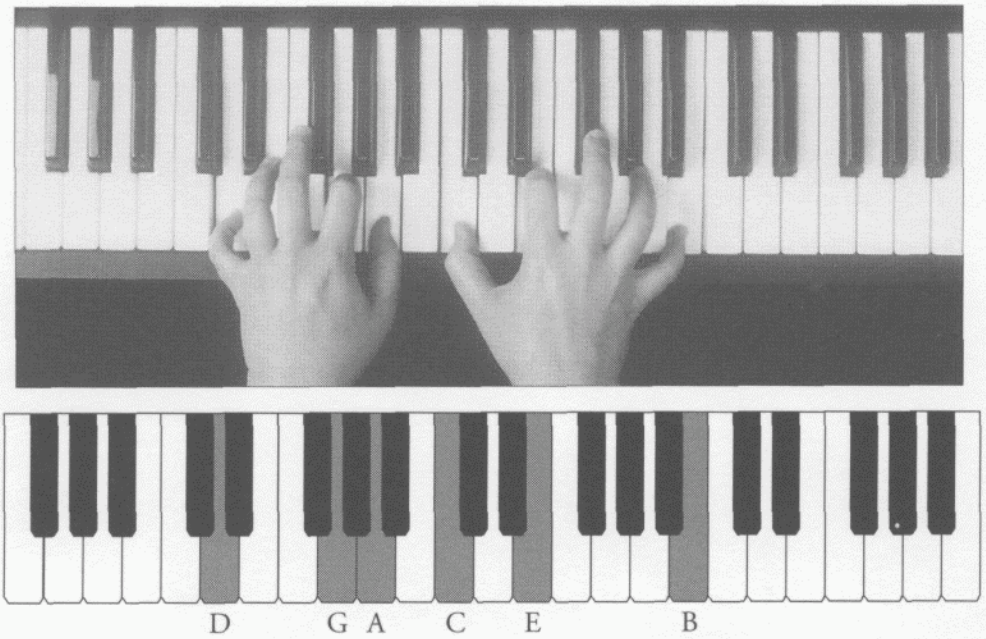
D9♯11



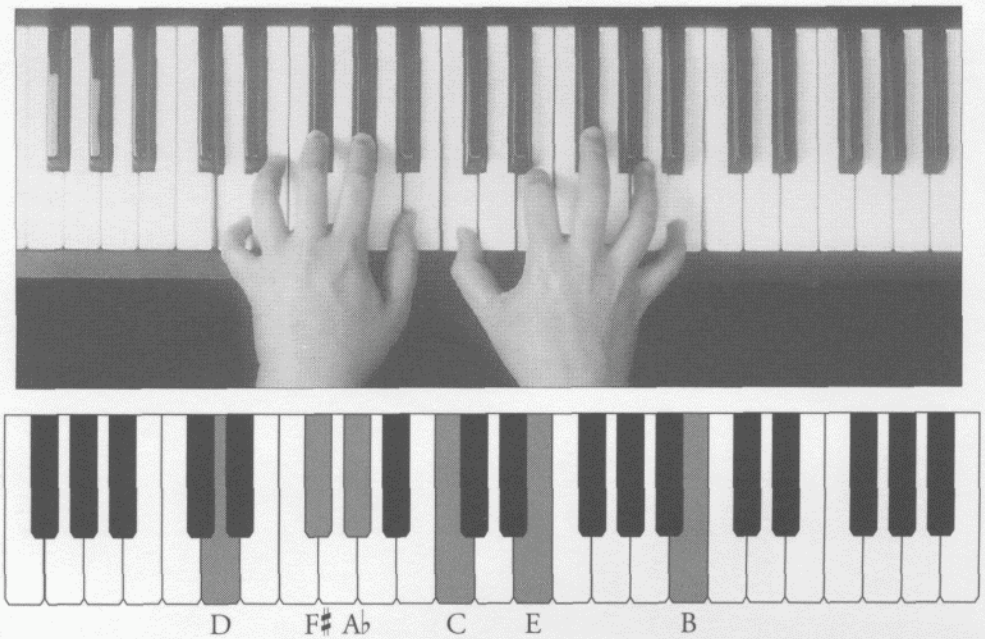
D13



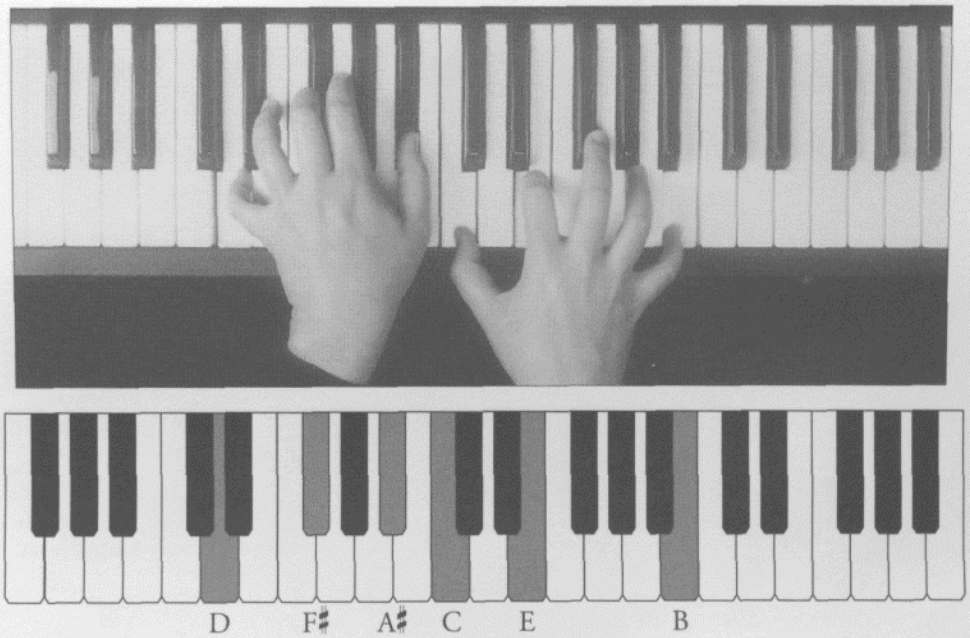
D13sus4



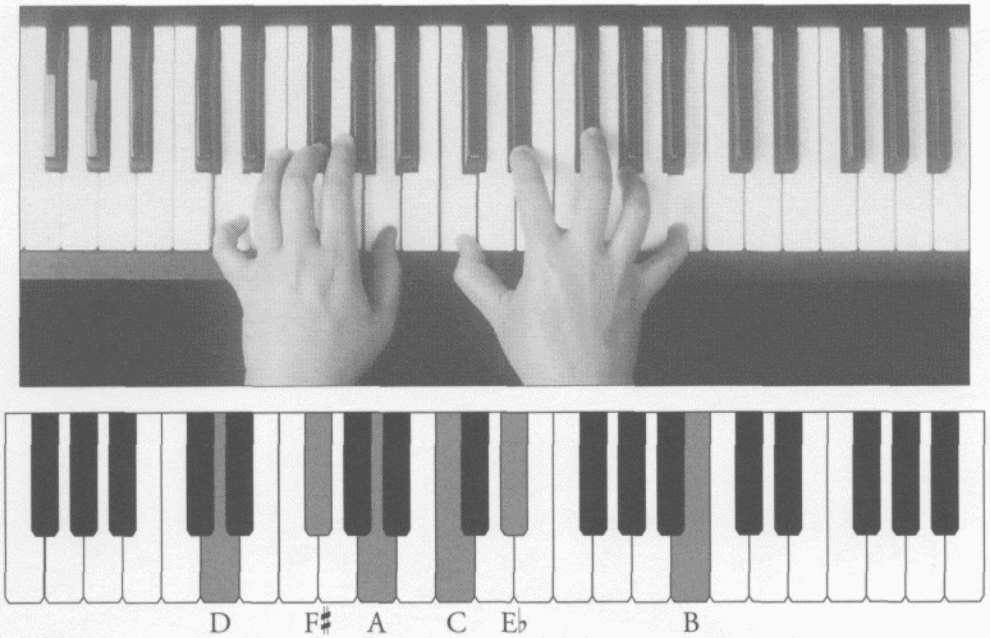
D13♭5



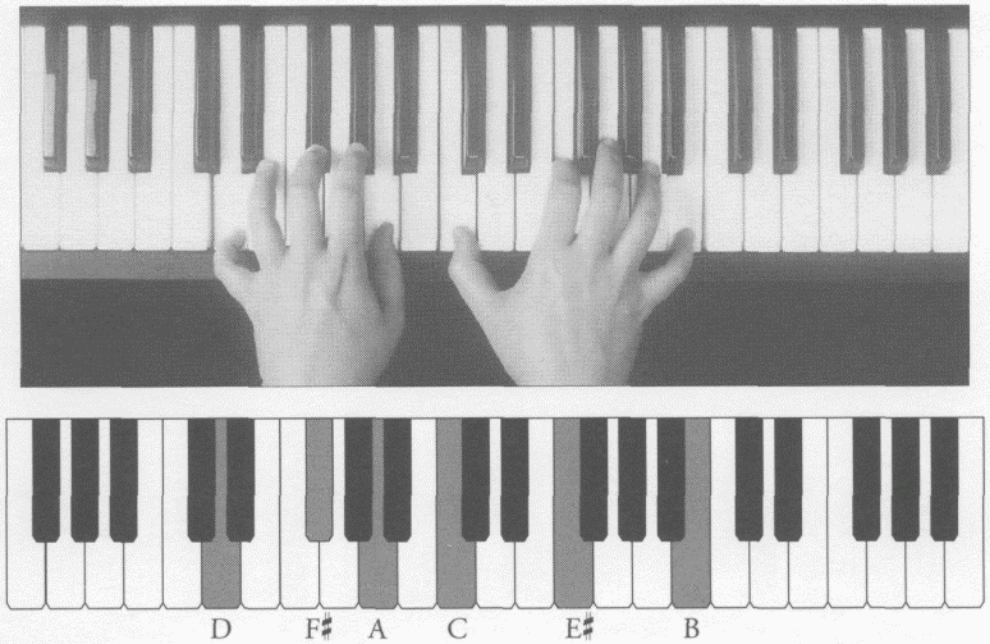
D13♯5



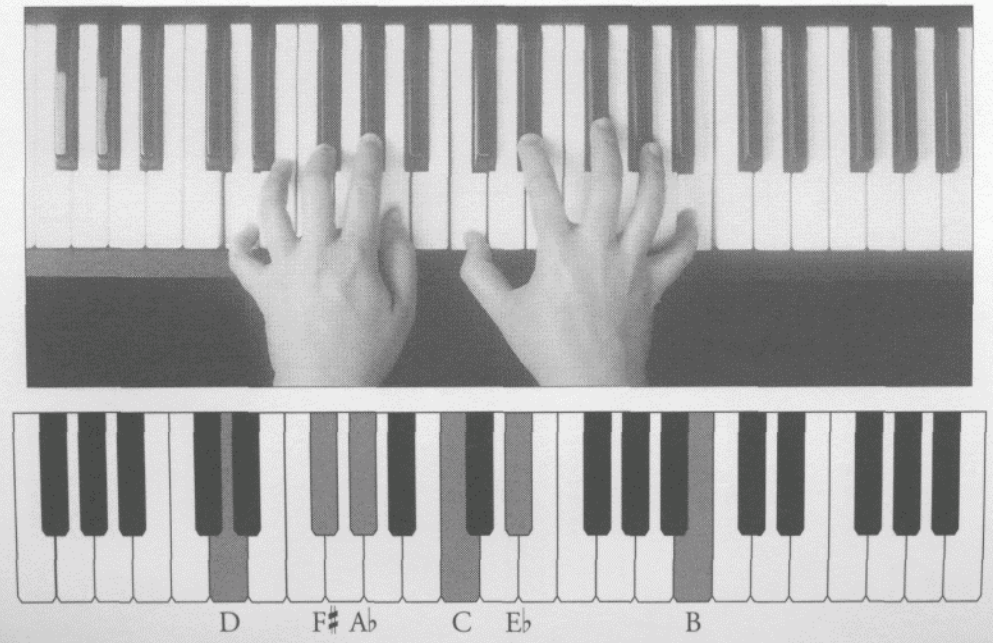
D13♭9



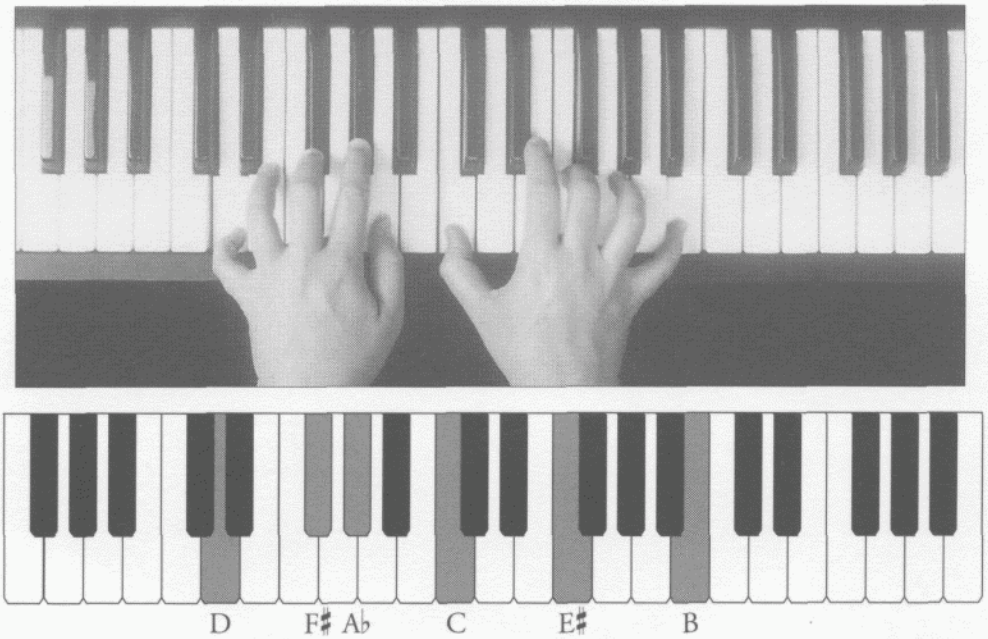
D13♯9



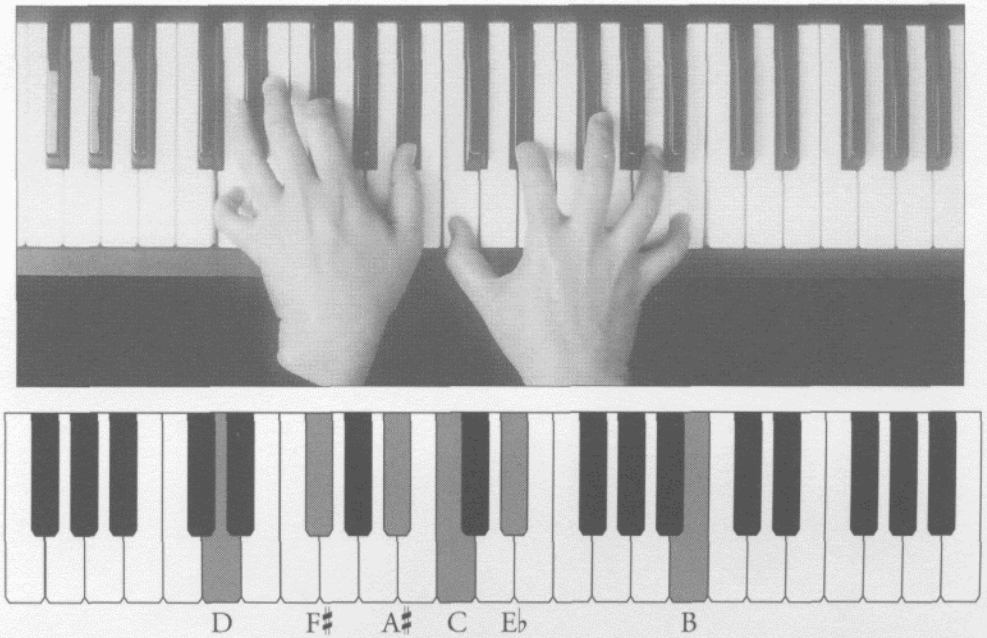
D13♭5♭9



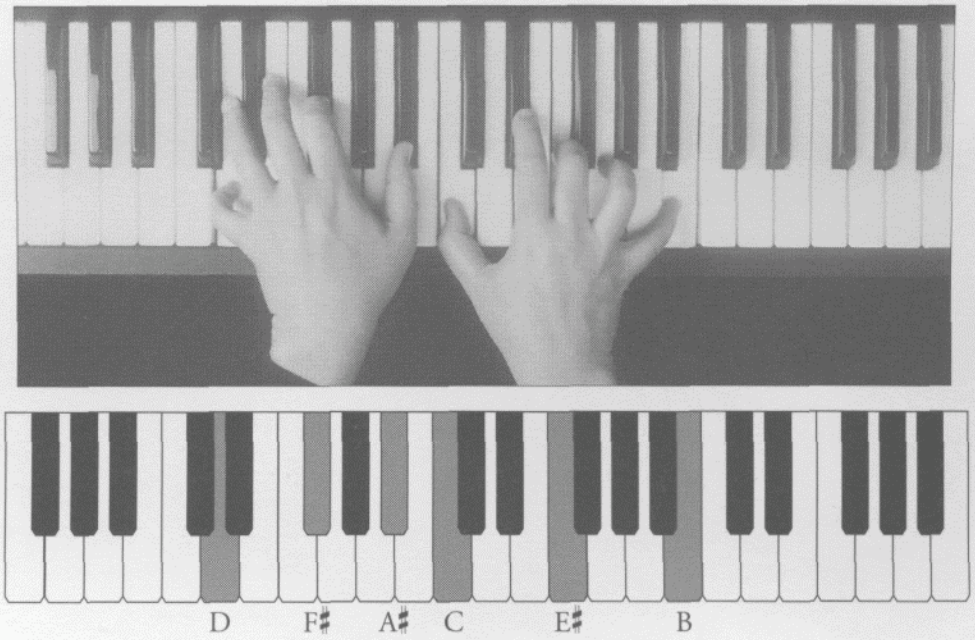
D13♭5♯9



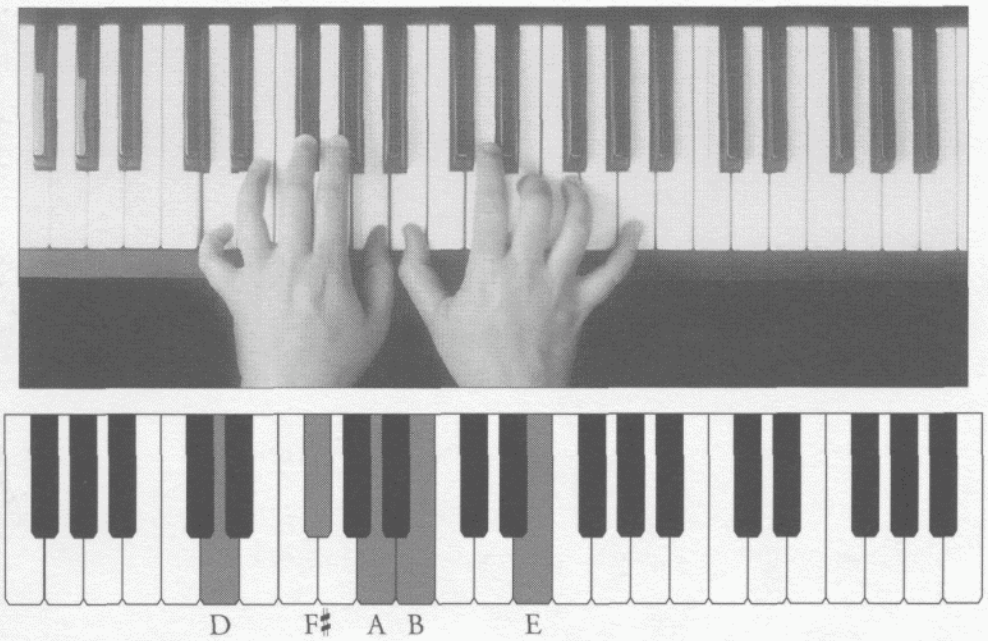
D13♯5♭9



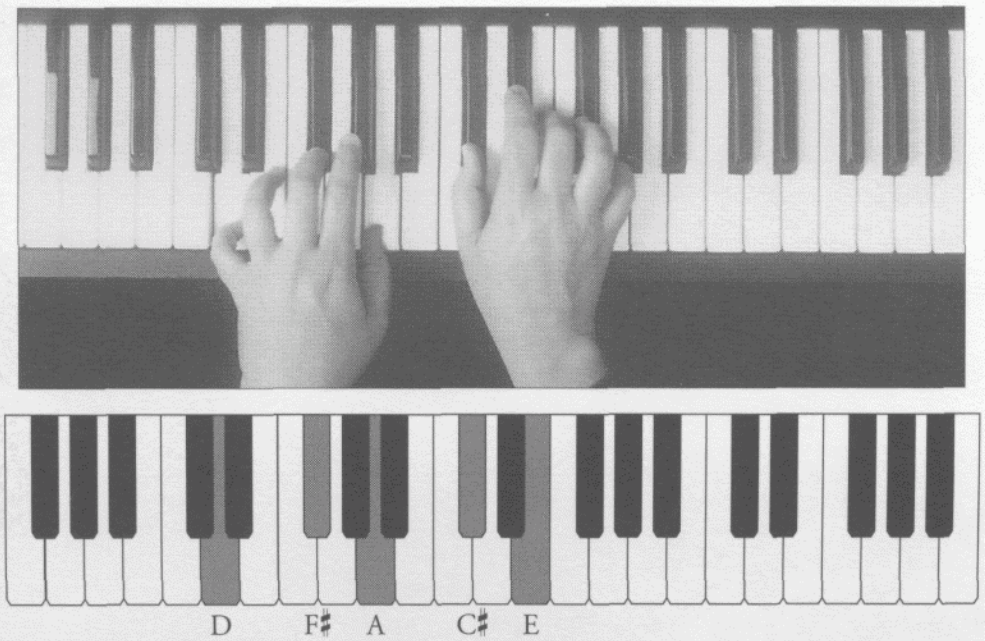
D13♯5♯9



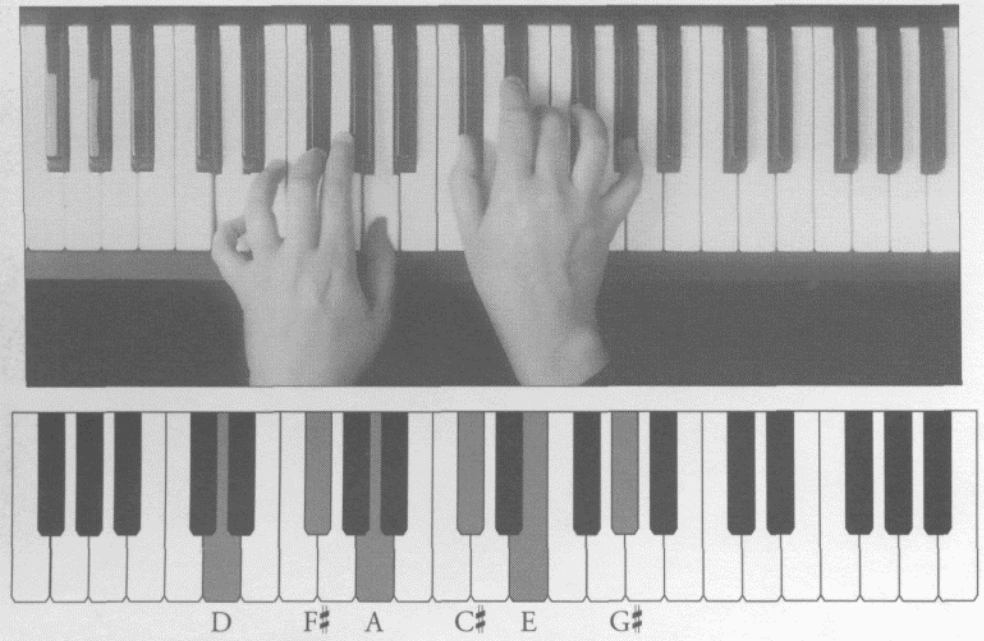
D 6/9



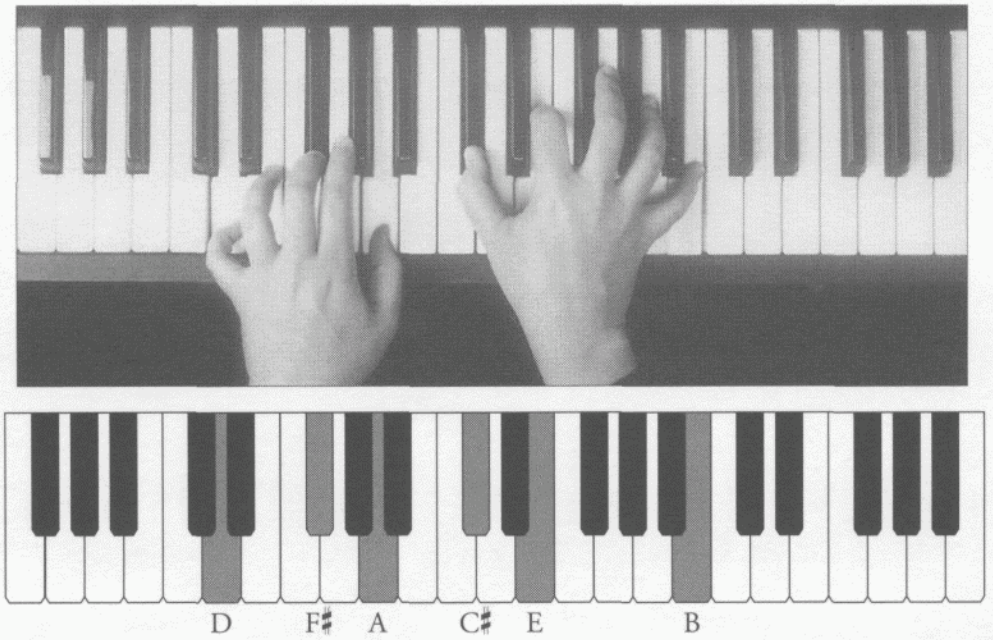
D major9



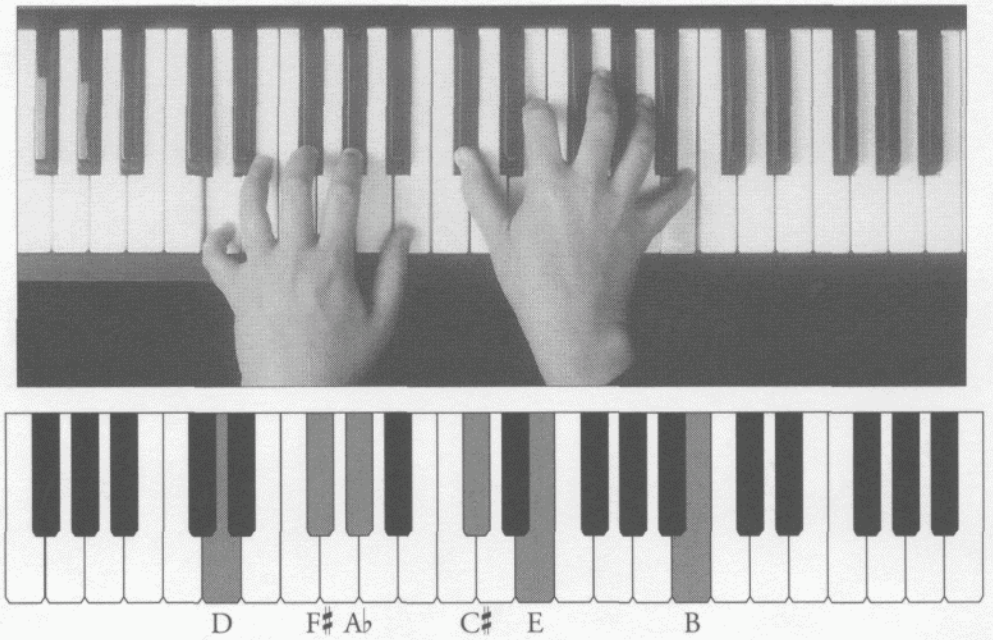
D major9♯11



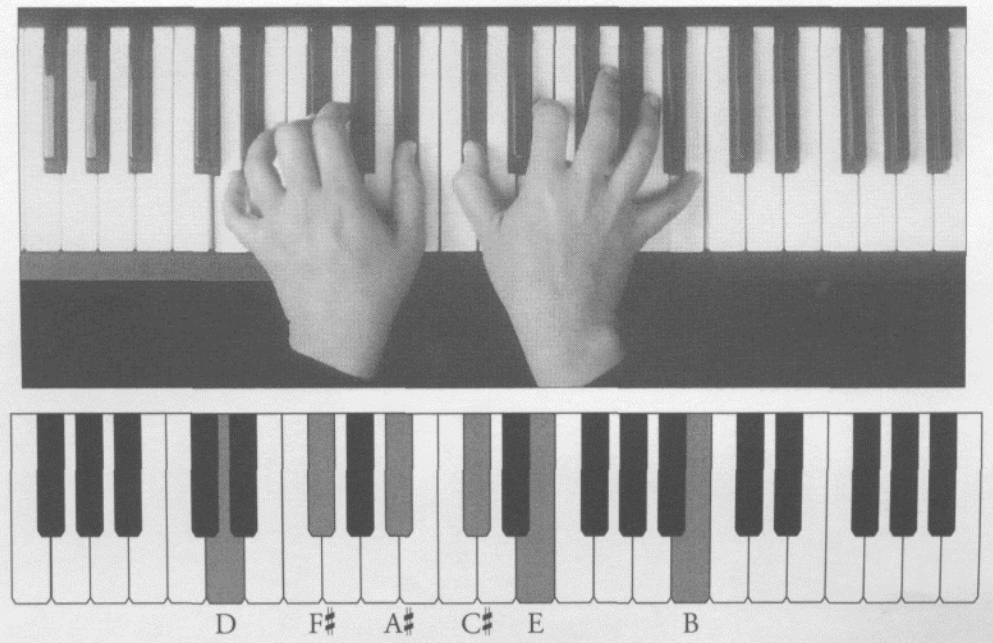
D major13



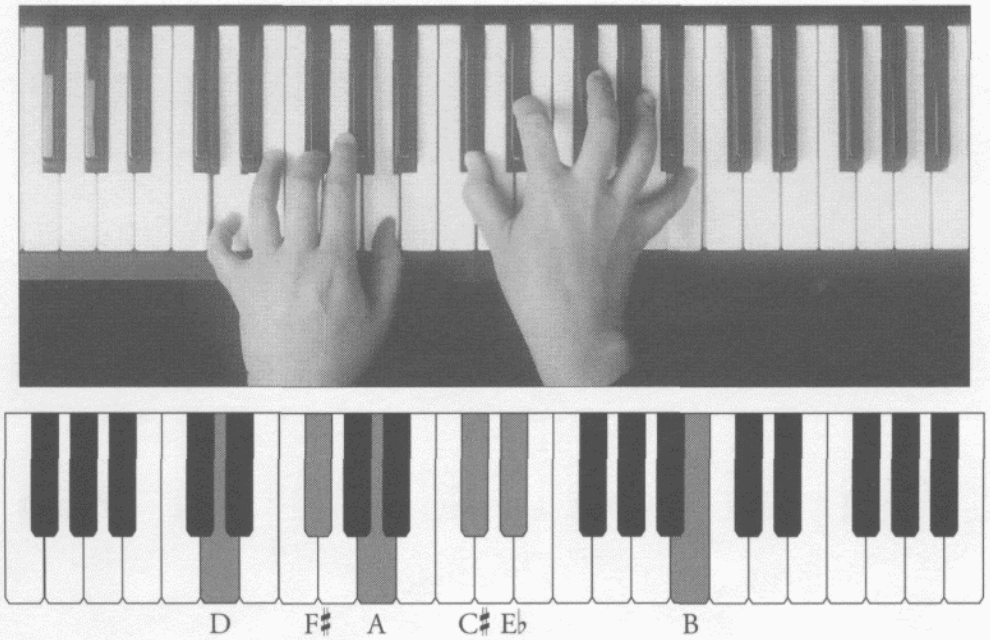
D major13♭5



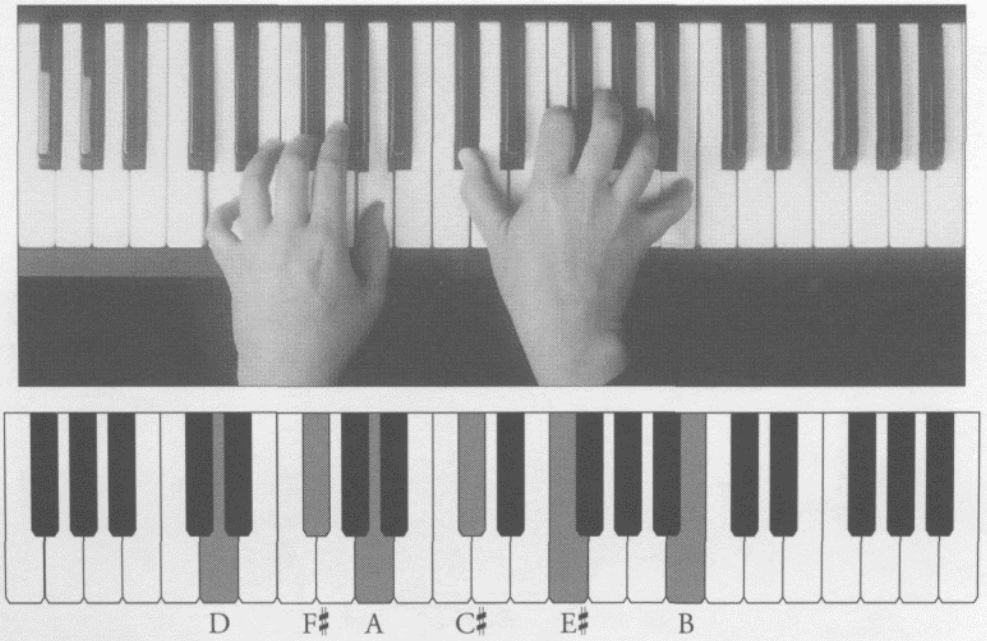
D major13♯5



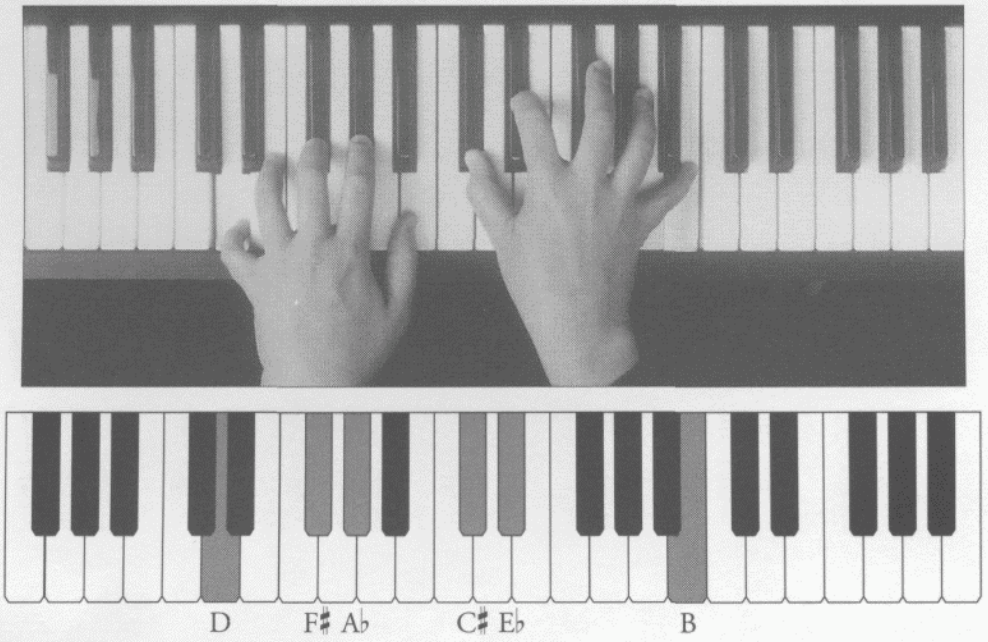
D major13♭9



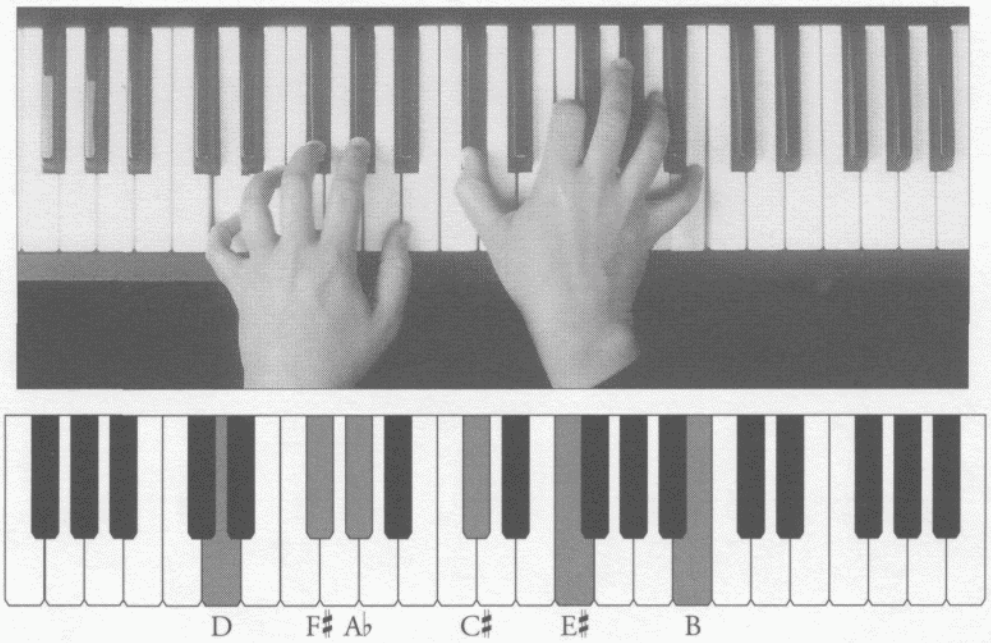
D major13♯9



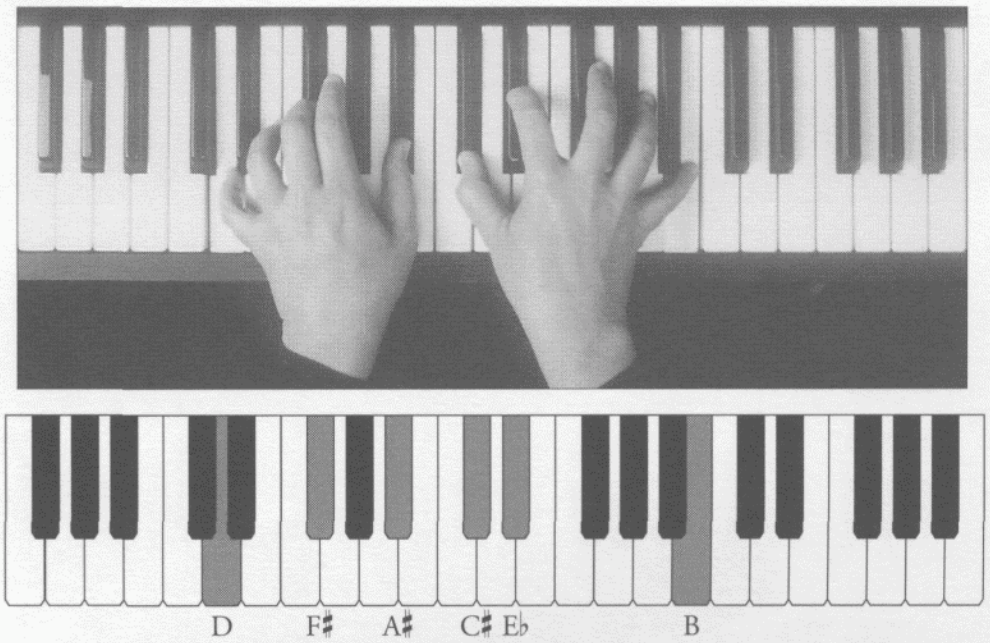
D major13♭5♭9



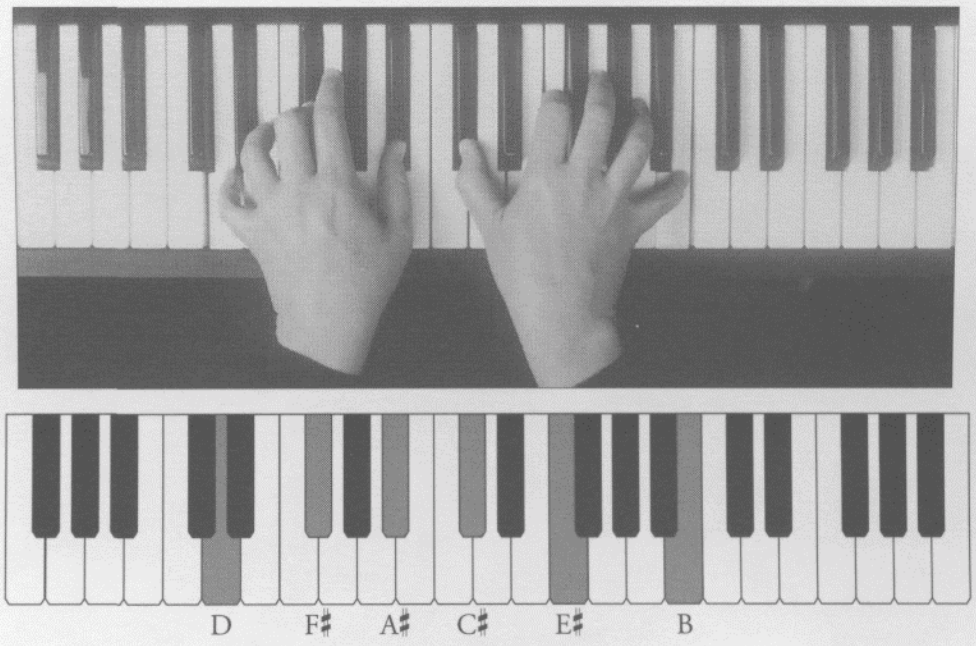
D major13♭5♯9



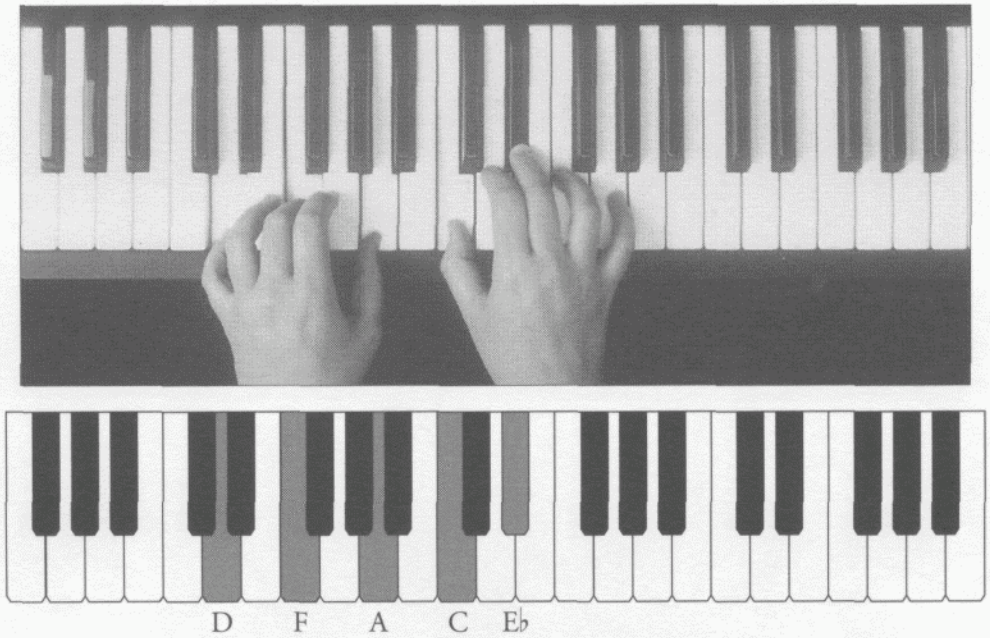
D major13♯5♭9



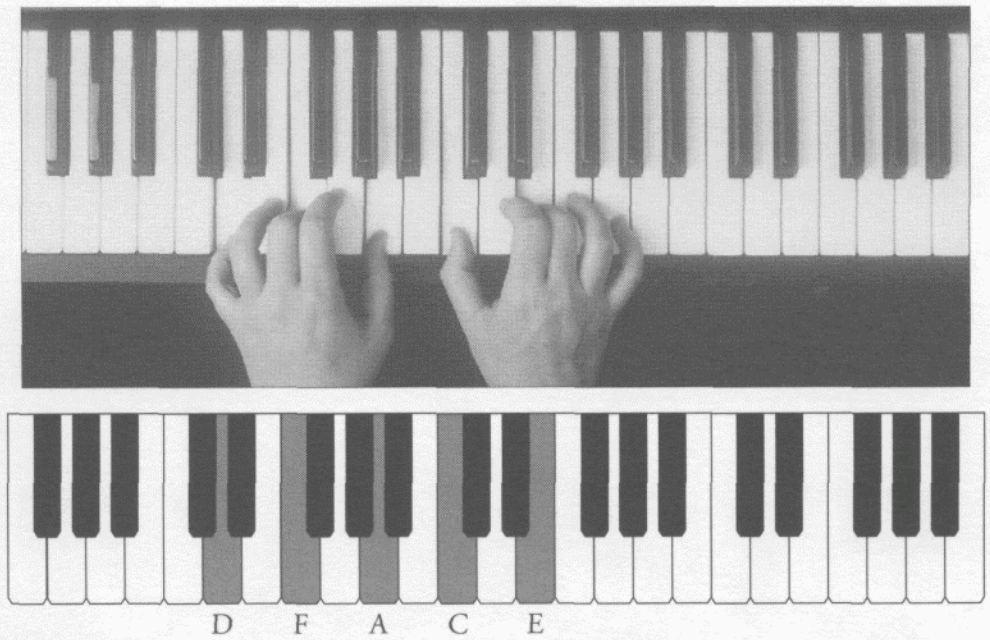
D major13♯5♯9



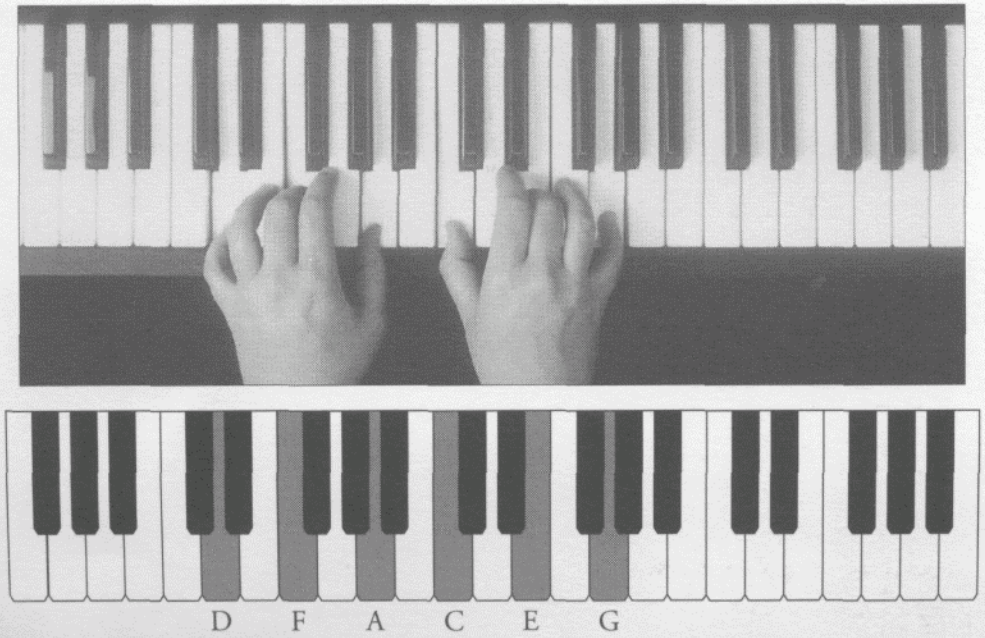
D minor7♭9



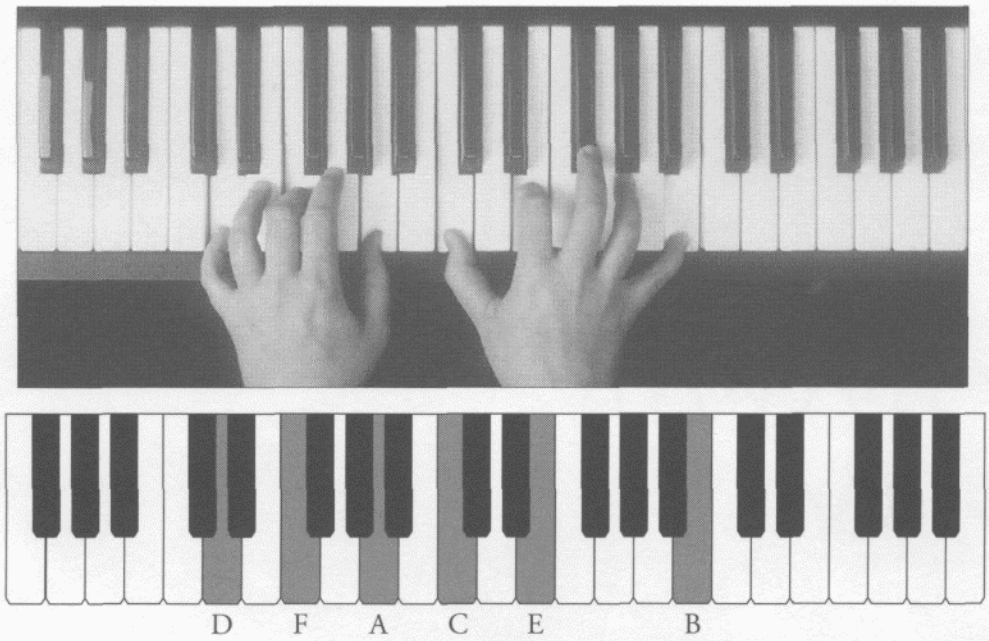
D minor9



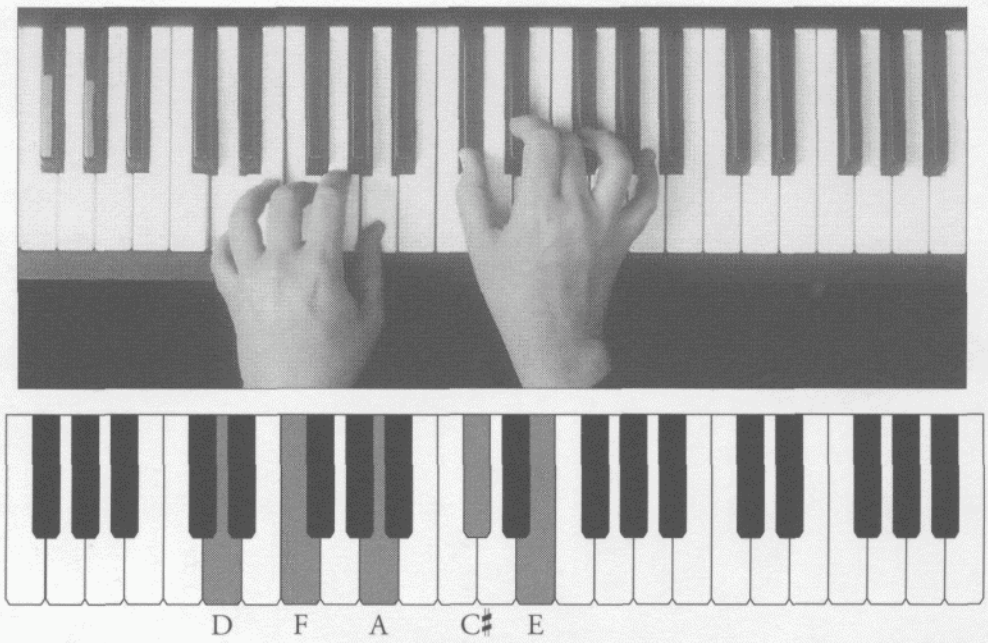
D minor11



D minor13

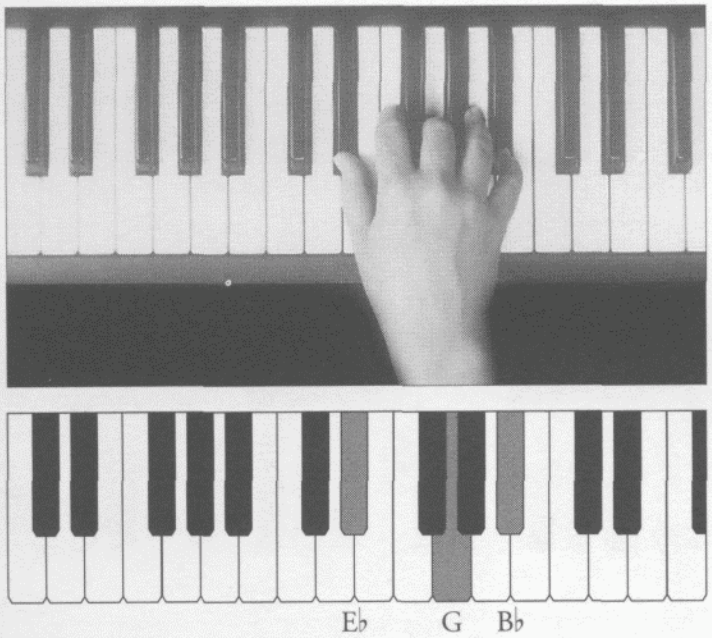


D minor9 (major7)

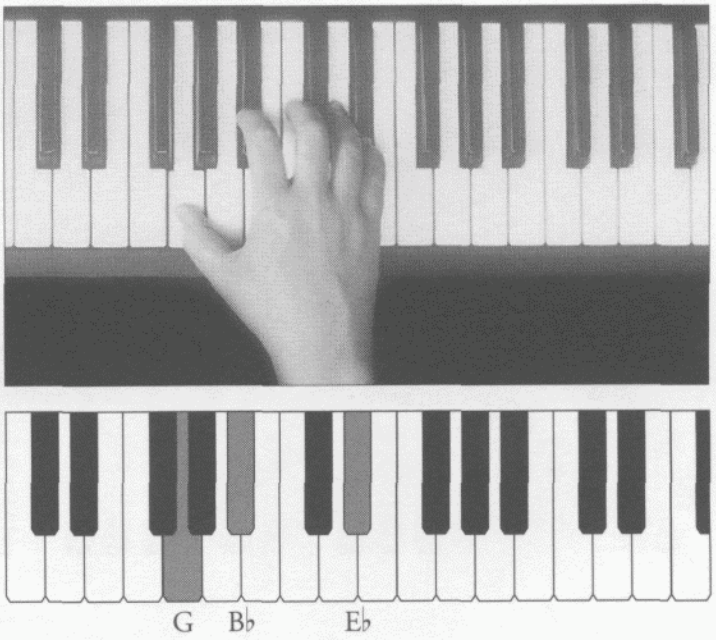


E♭ chords

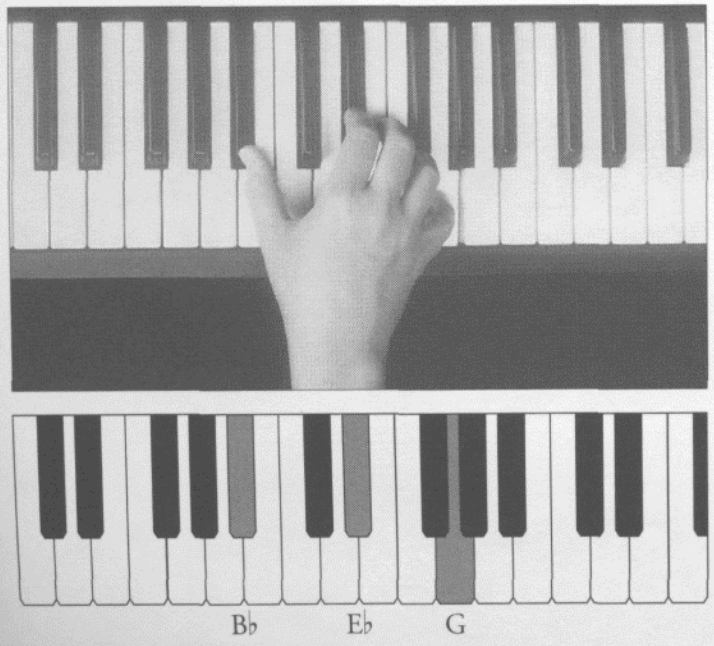
E♭ major



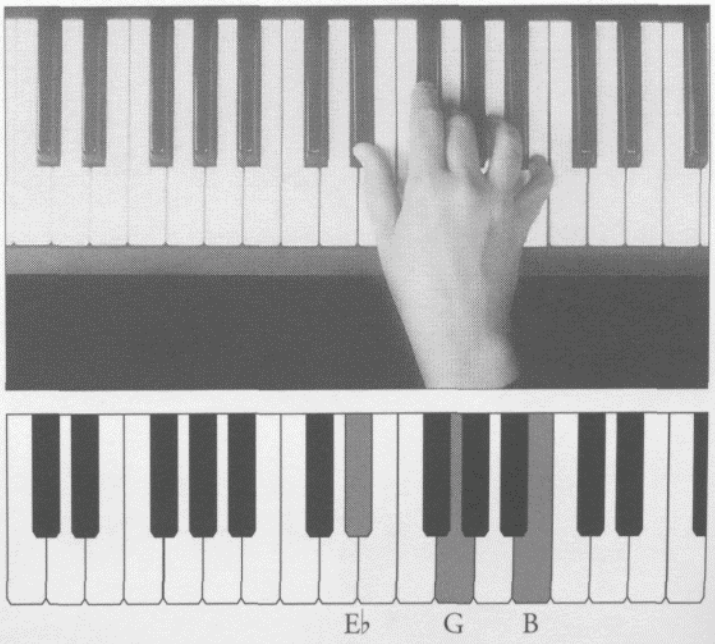
E♭/G *first inversion*



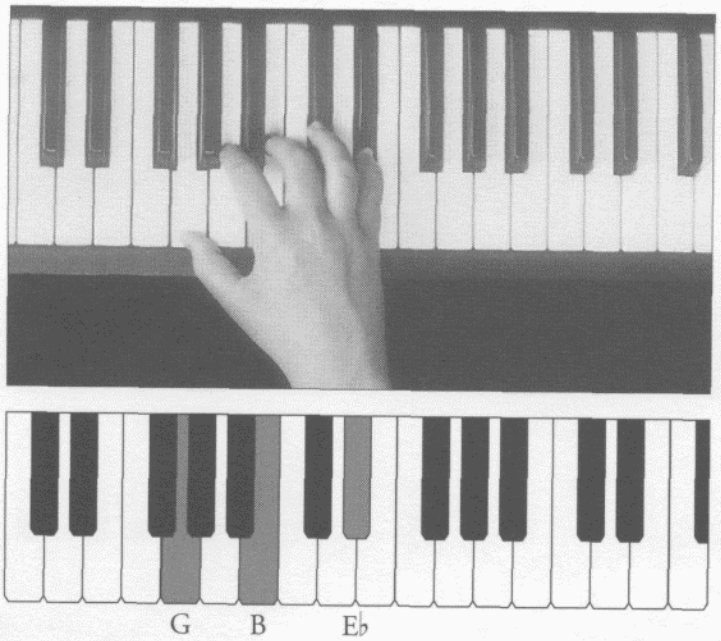
E♭/B♭ *second inversion*



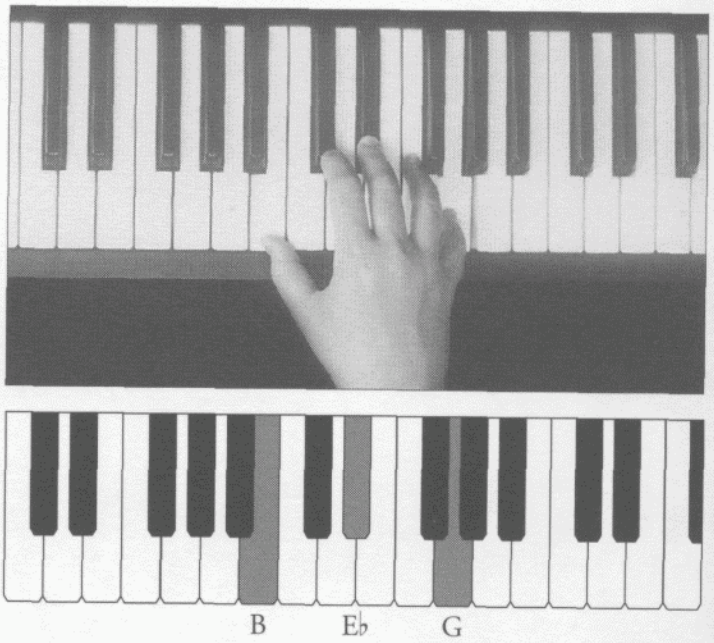
E♭ augmented



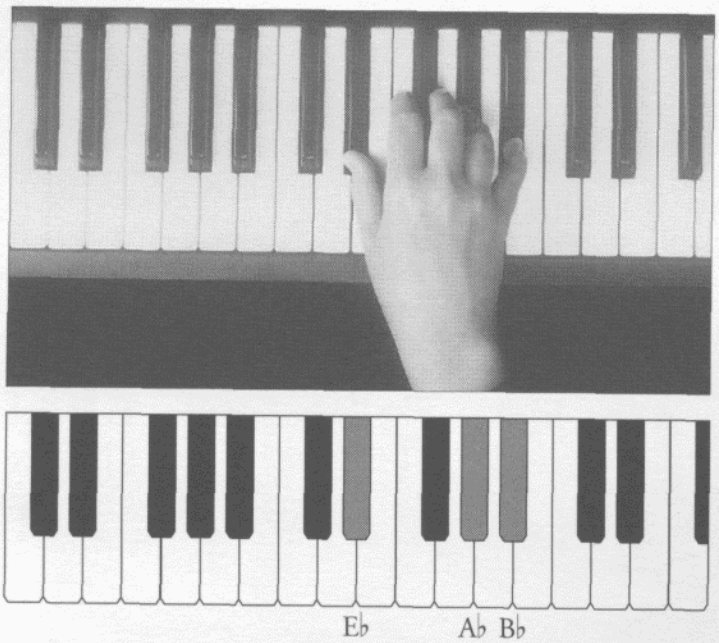
E♭ augmented *first inversion*



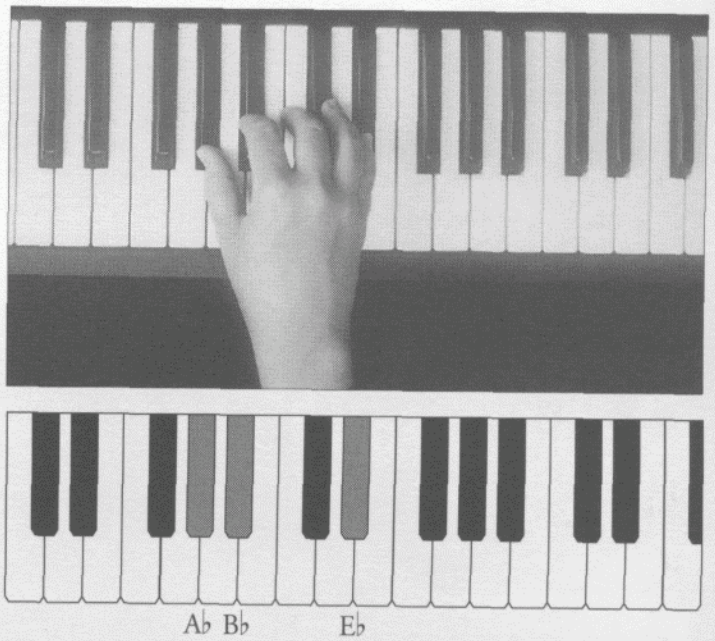
E♭ augmented *second inversion*



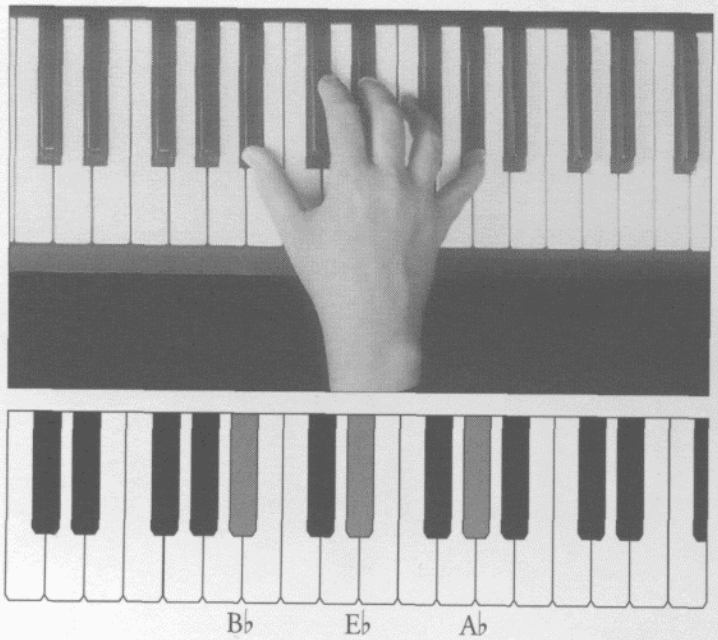
E♭sus4



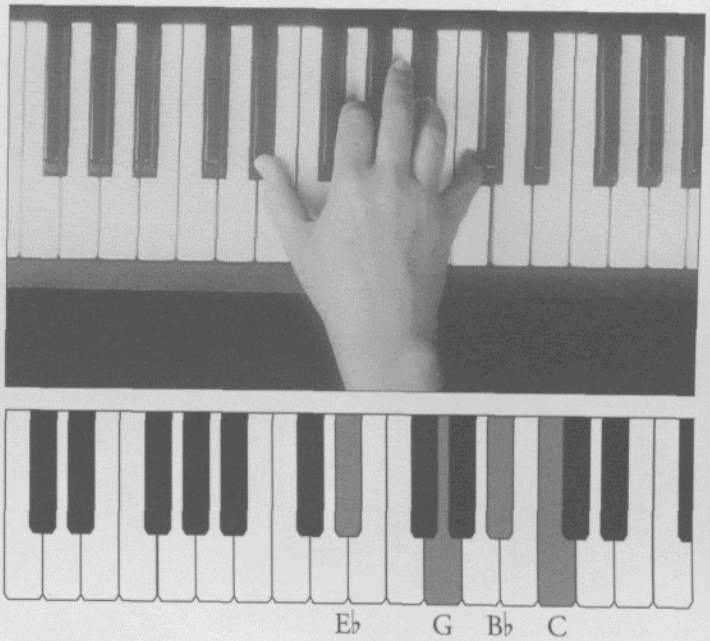
E♭sus4 *first inversion*



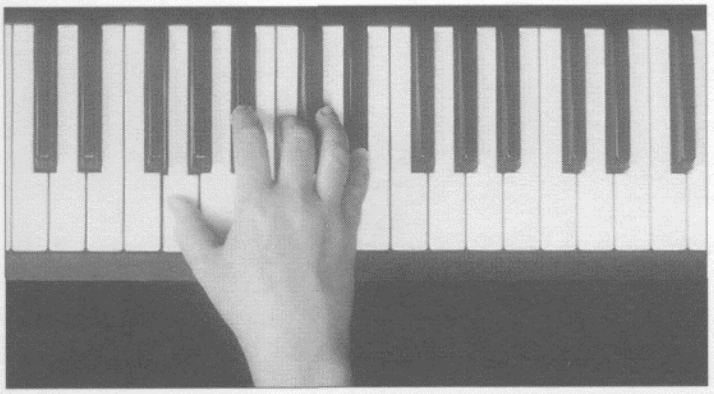
E♭sus4 *second inversion*



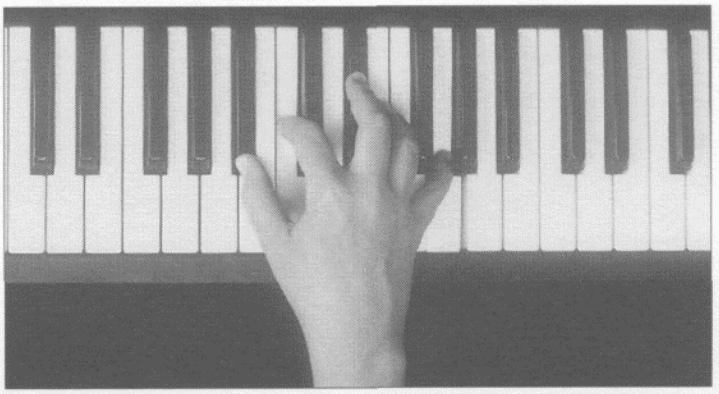
E♭6

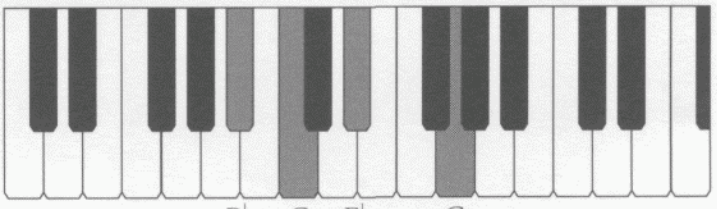


E♭6 *first inversion*

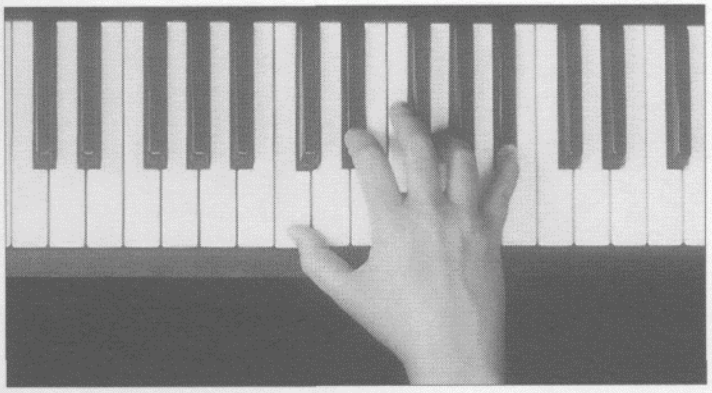


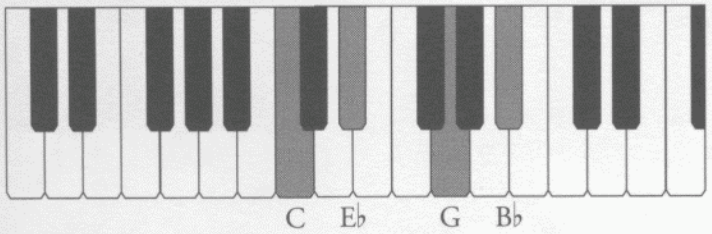
E♭6 *second inversion*



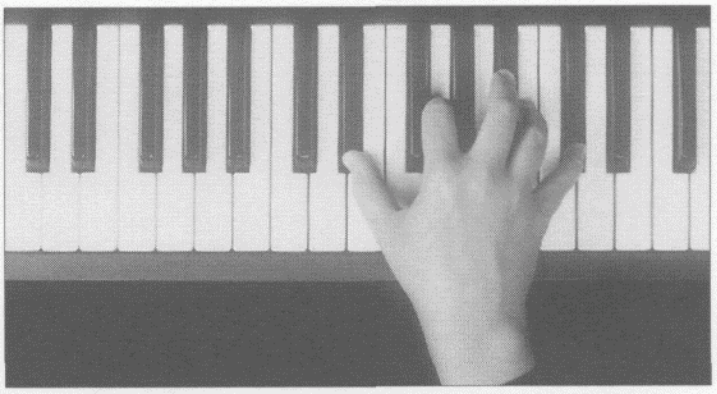


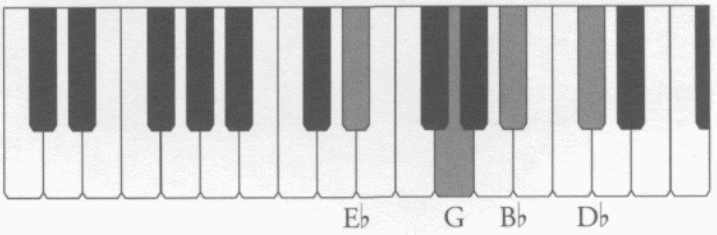
E♭6 *third inversion*



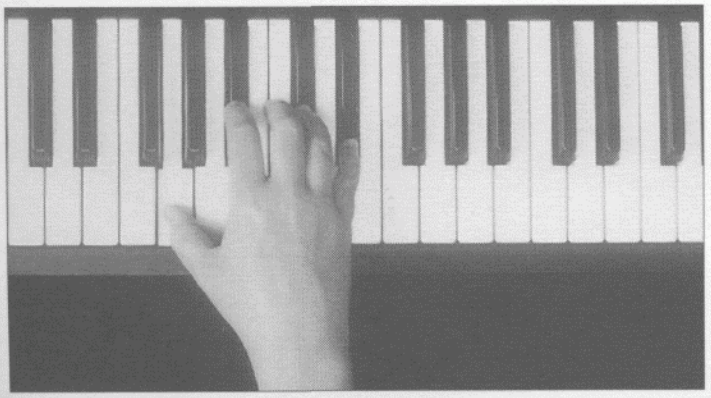


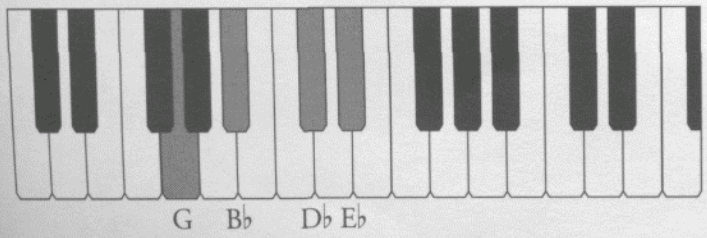
E♭7



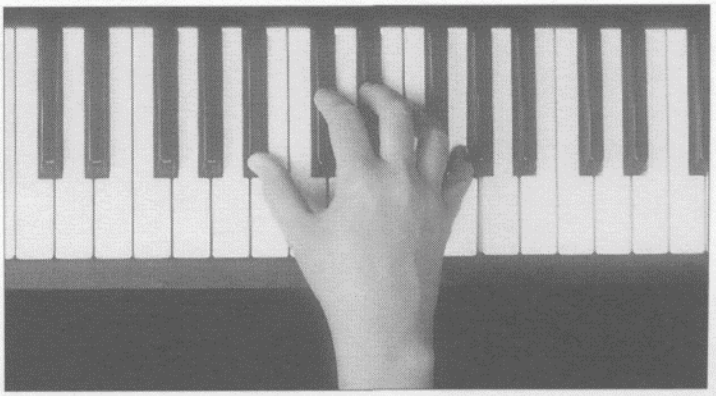


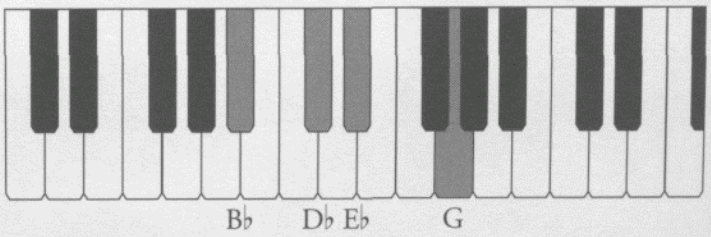
E♭7 *first inversion*



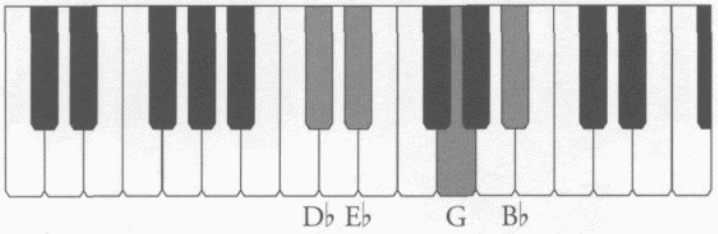


E♭7 *second inversion*

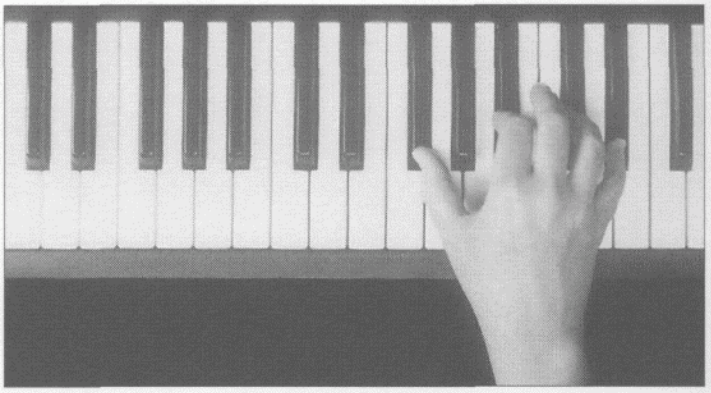


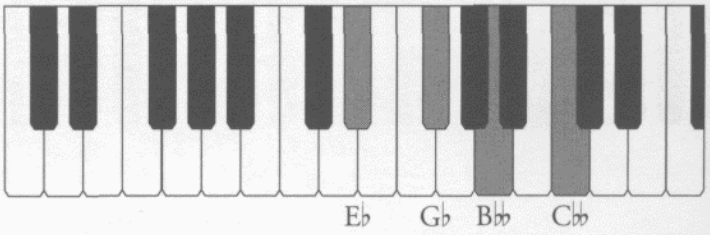


E♭7 *third inversion*

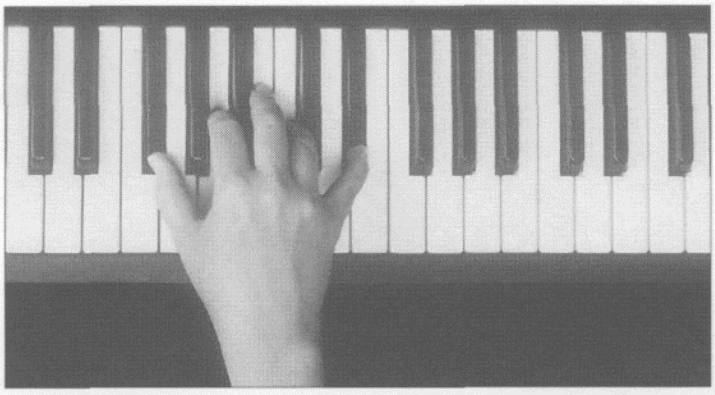


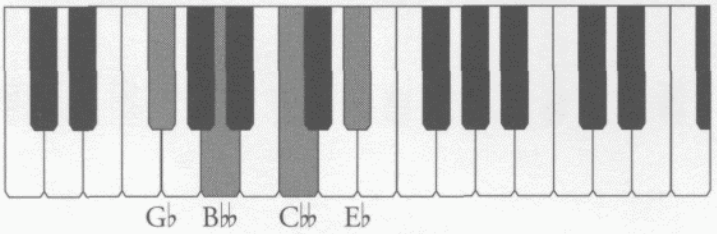
E♭°7



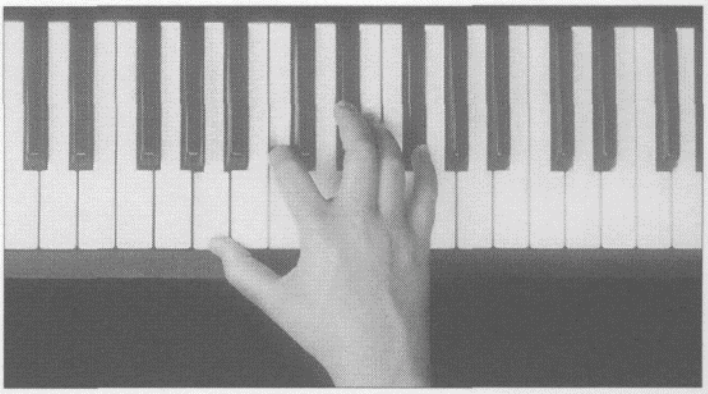


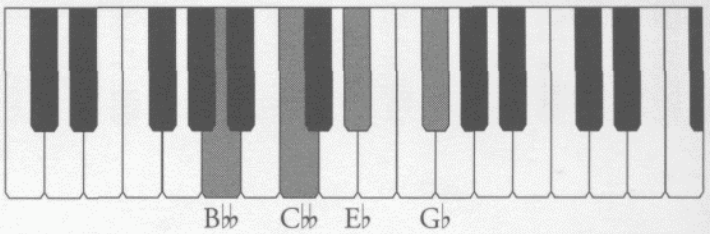
E♭°7 *first inversion*



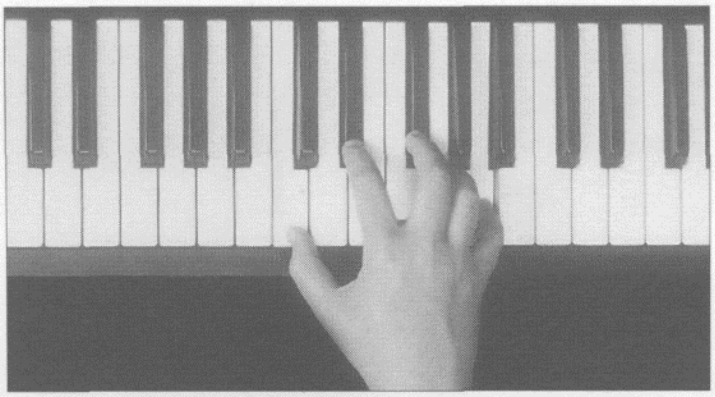


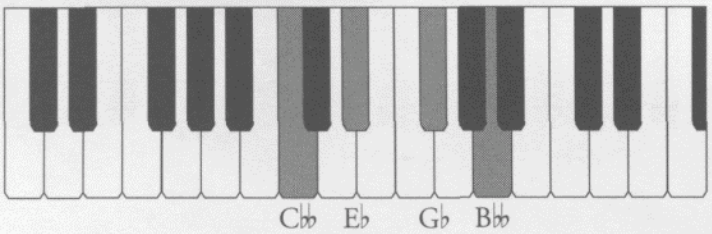
E♭°7 *second inversion*



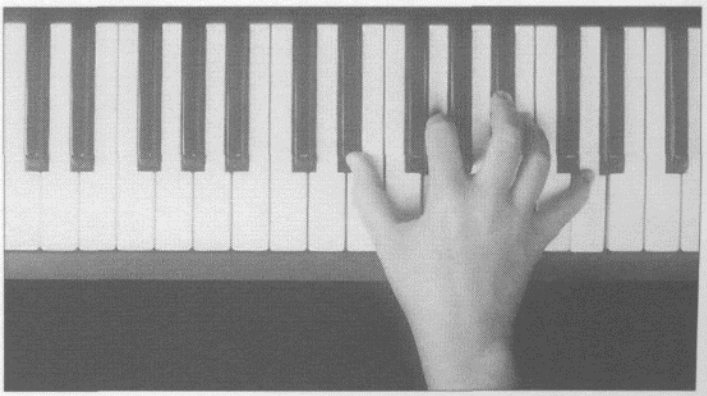


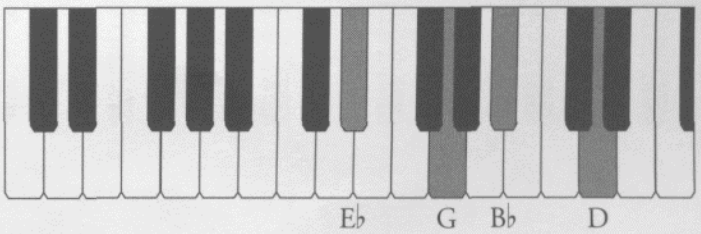
E♭°7 *third inversion*



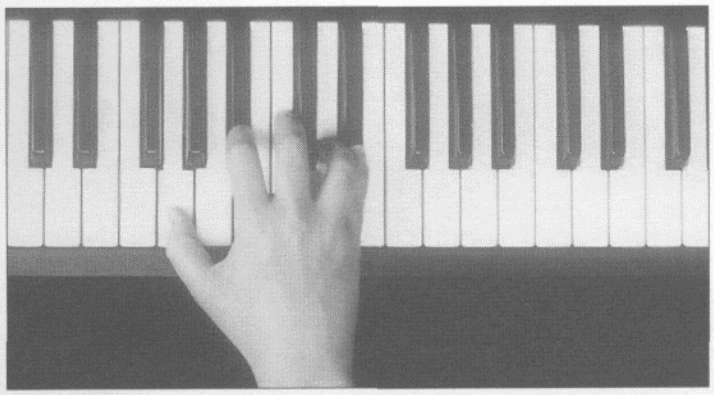


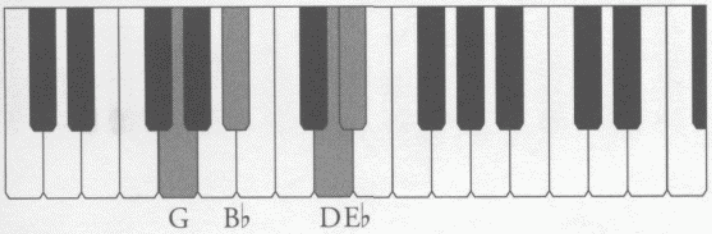
E♭ major7



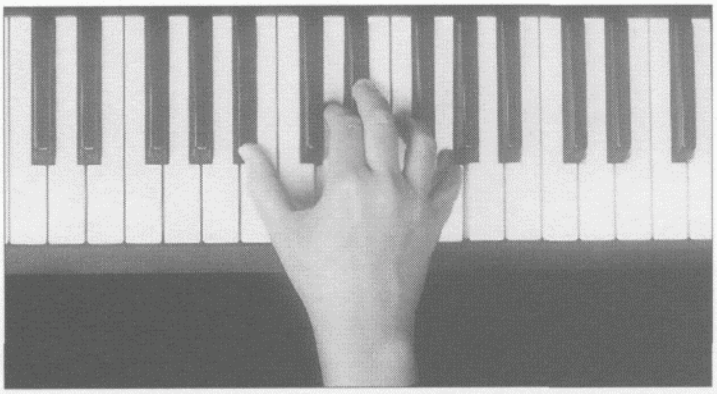


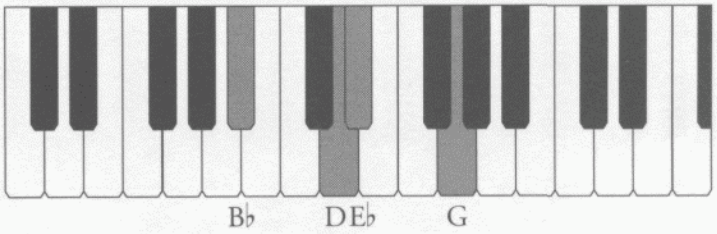
E♭ major7 *first inversion*



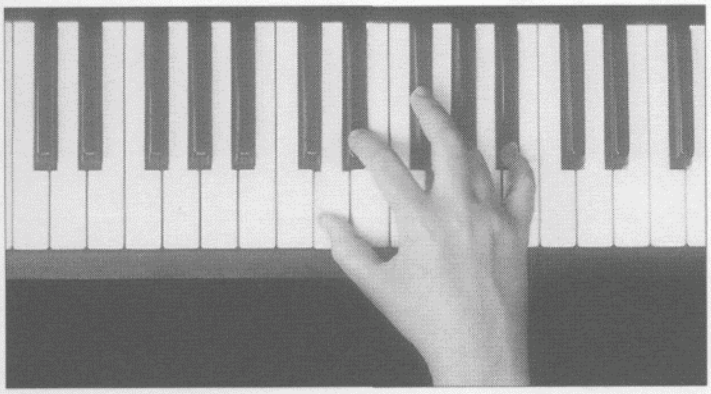


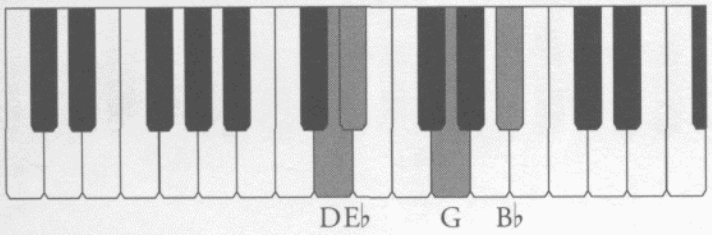
E♭ major7 *second inversion*



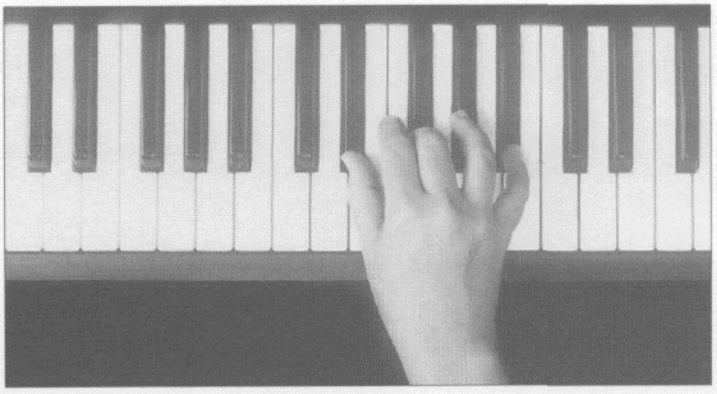


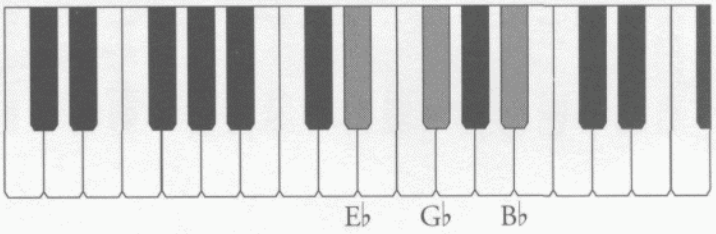
E♭ major7 *third inversion*



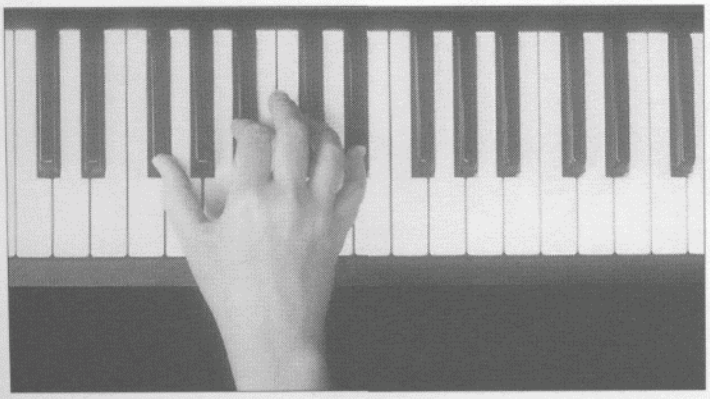


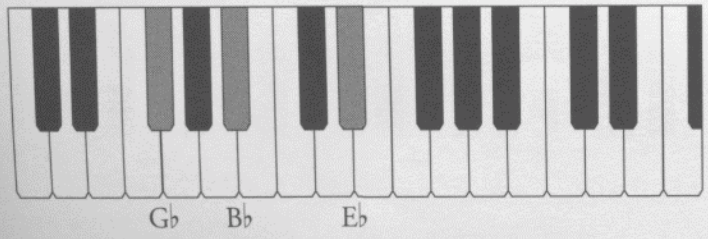
E♭ minor



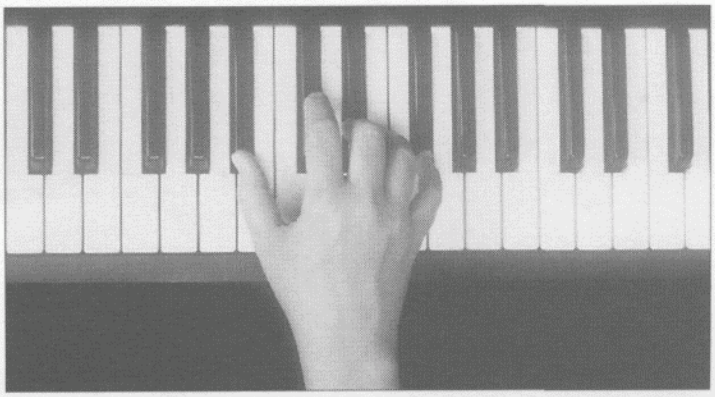


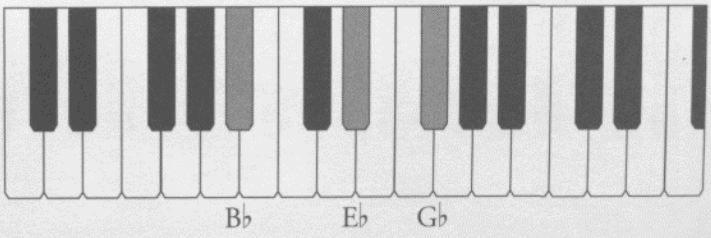
E♭ minor *first inversion*



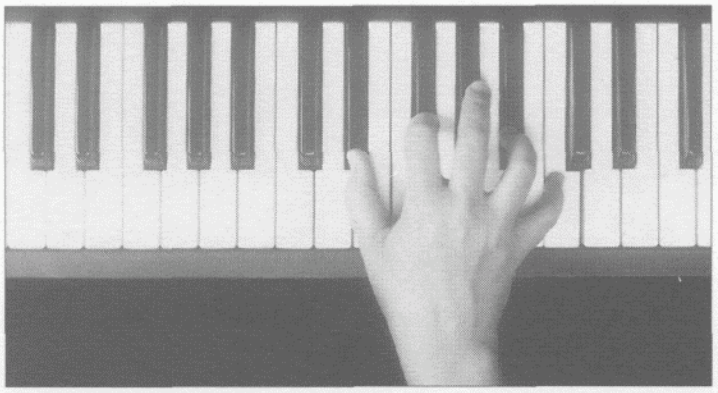


E♭ minor *second inversion*

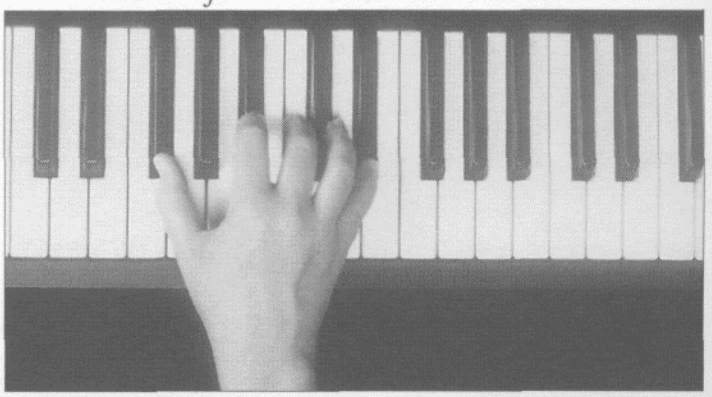




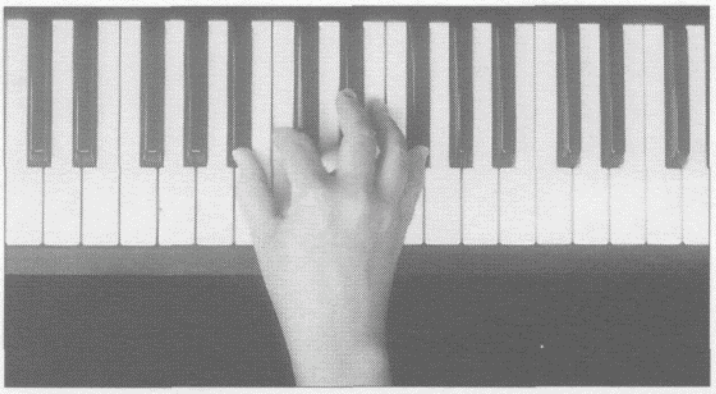
E♭ minor6

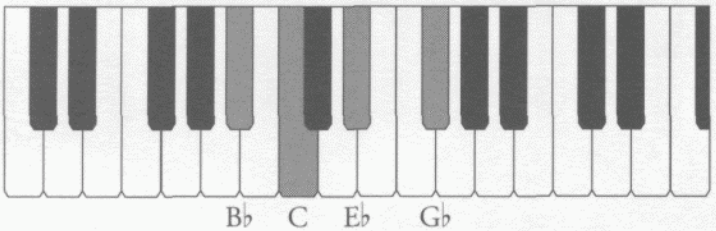


E♭ minor6 *first inversion*

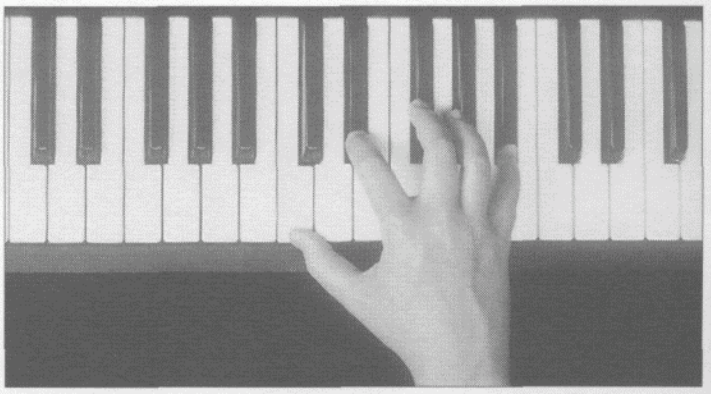


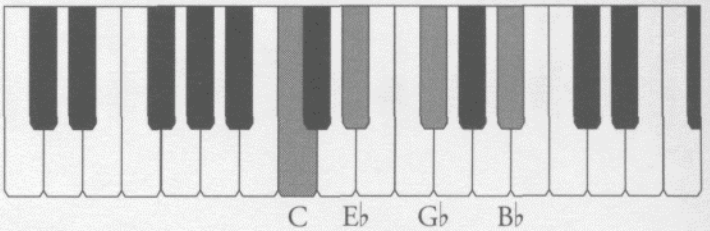
E♭ minor6 *second inversion*



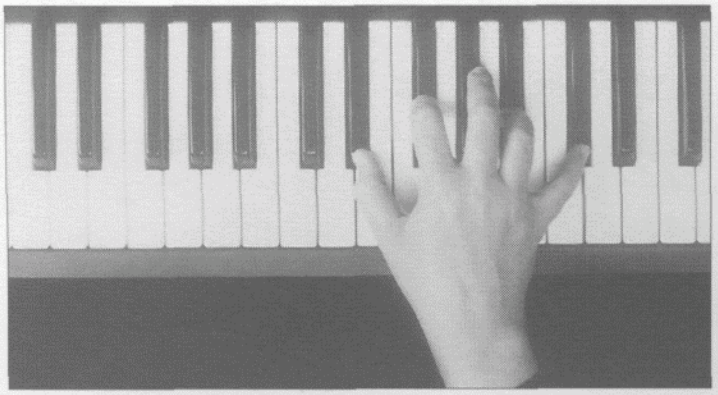


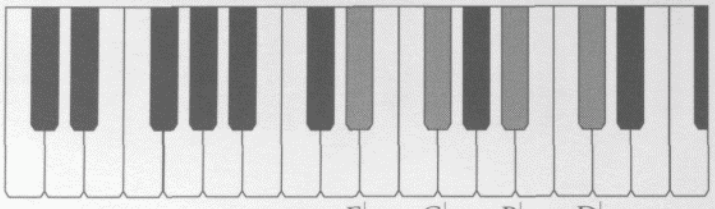
E♭ minor6 *third inversion*



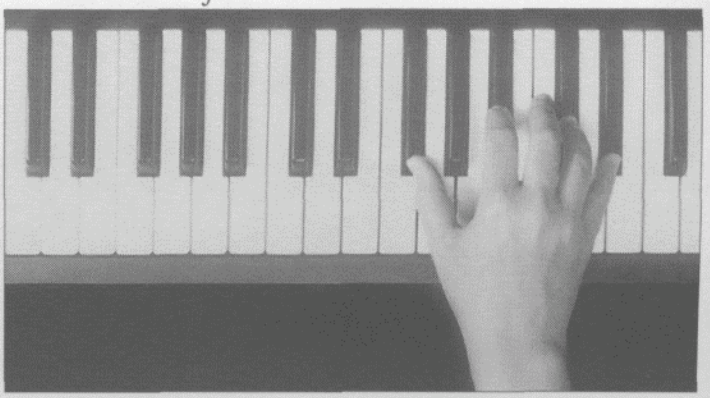


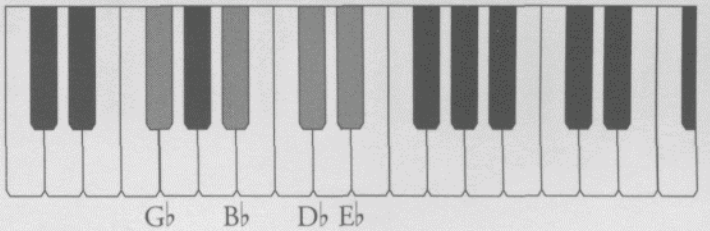
E♭ minor7



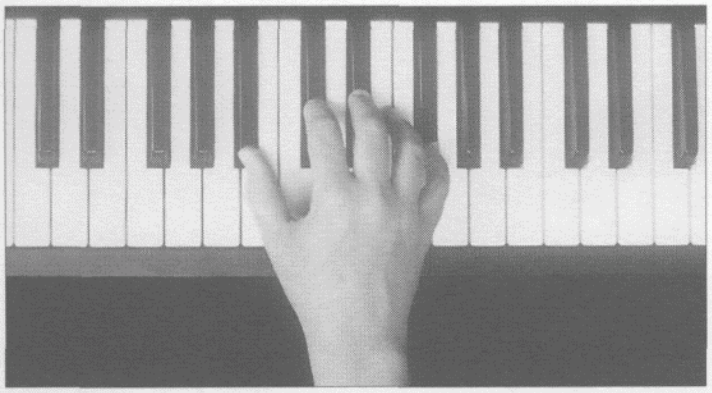


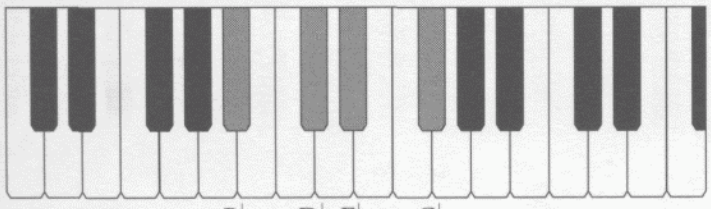
E♭ minor7 *first inversion*



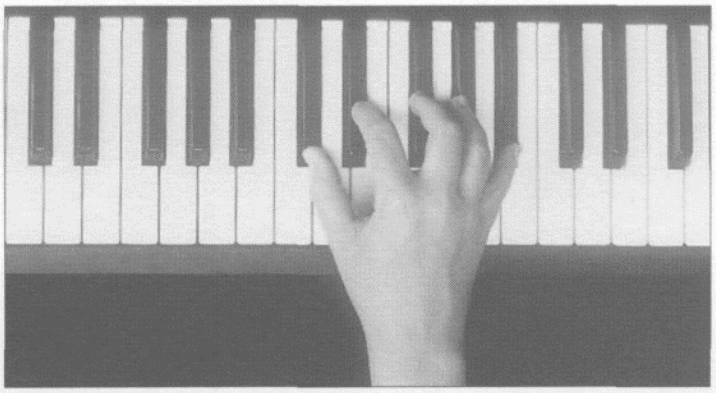


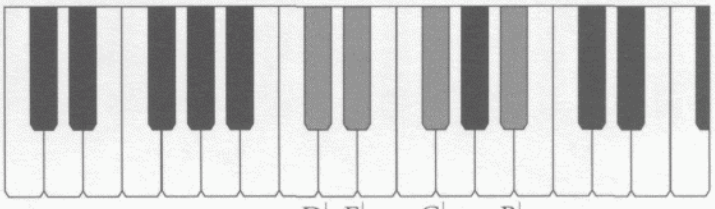
E♭ minor7 *second inversion*



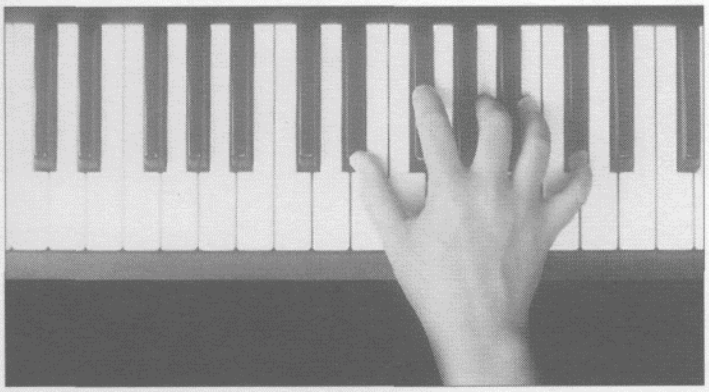


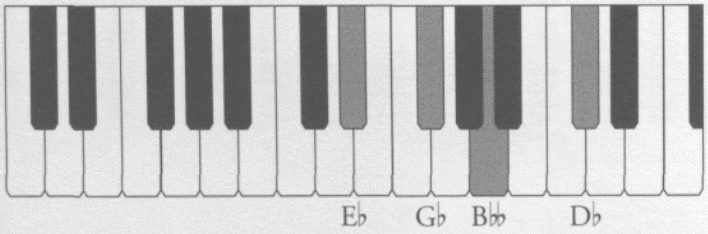
E♭ minor7 *third inversion*



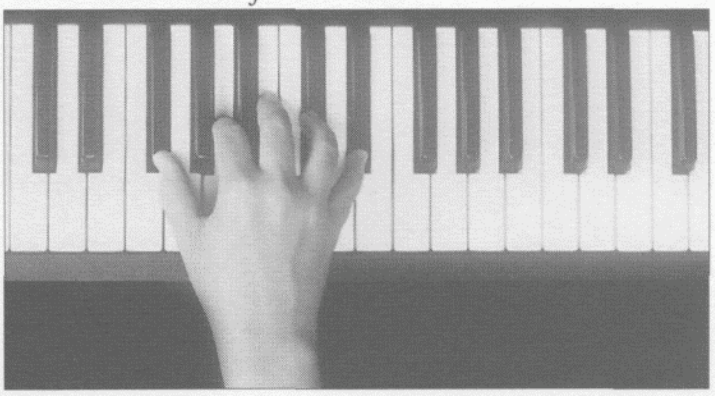


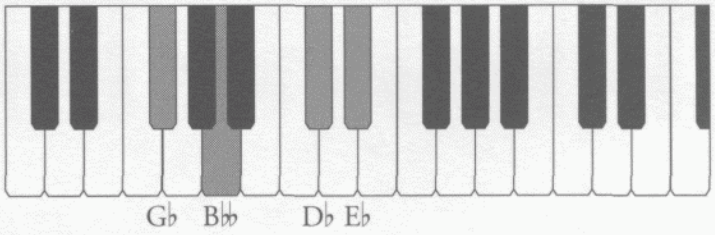
E♭ minor7♭5



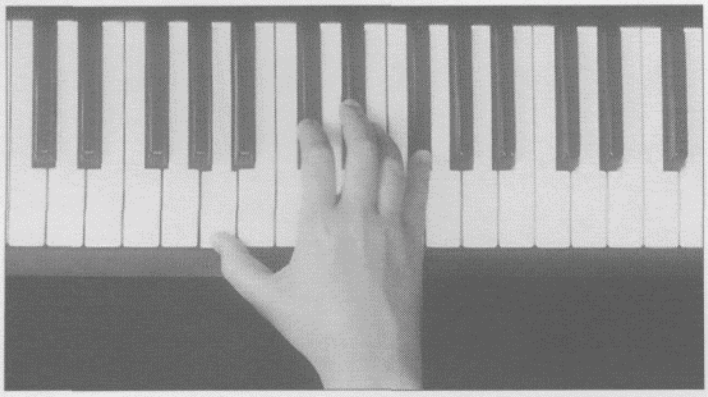


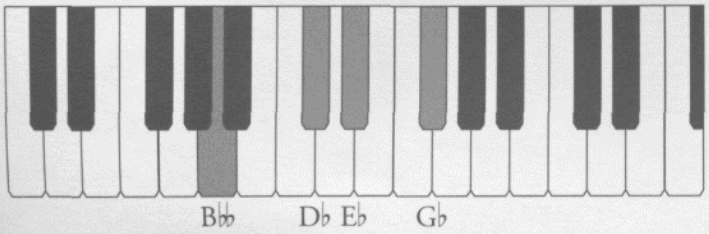
E♭ minor7♭5 *first inversion*



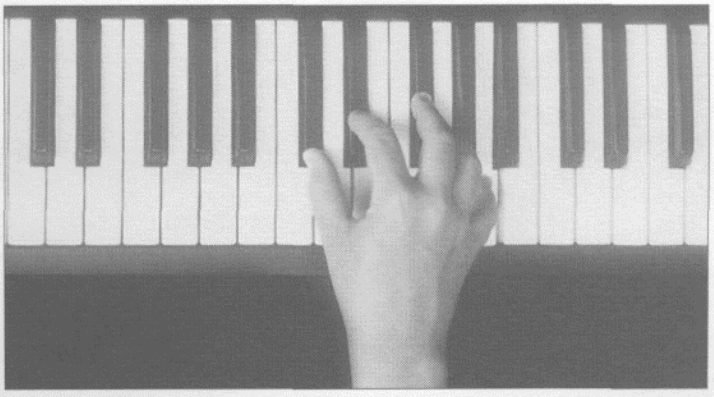


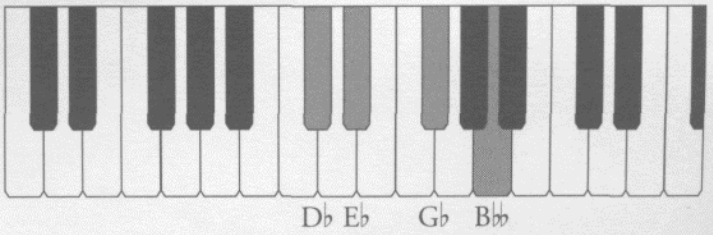
E♭ minor7♭5 *second inversion*



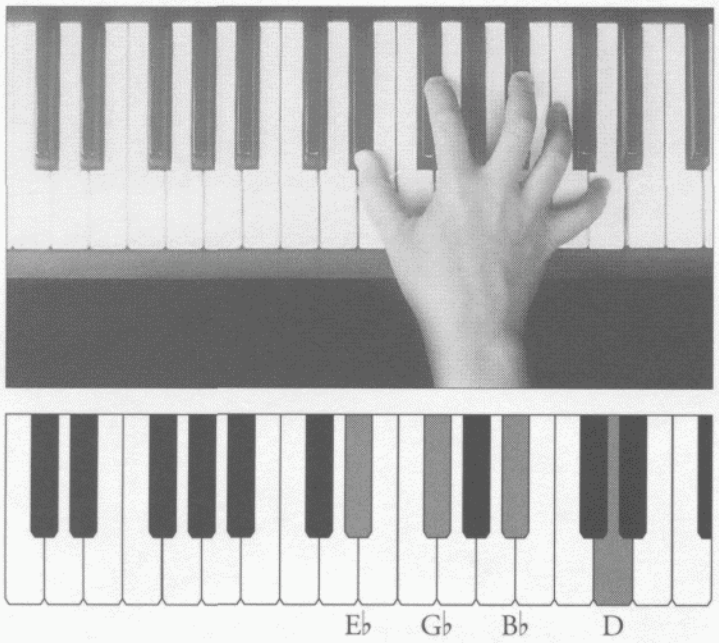


E♭ minor7♭5 *third inversion*

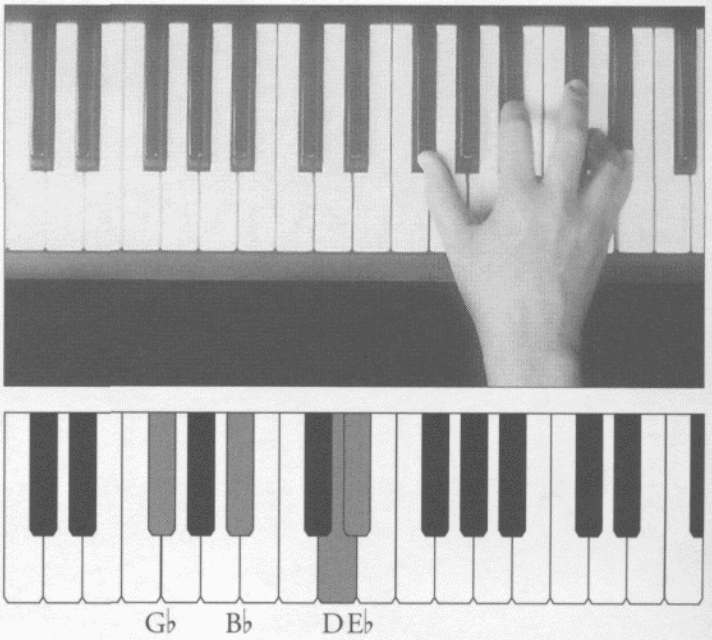




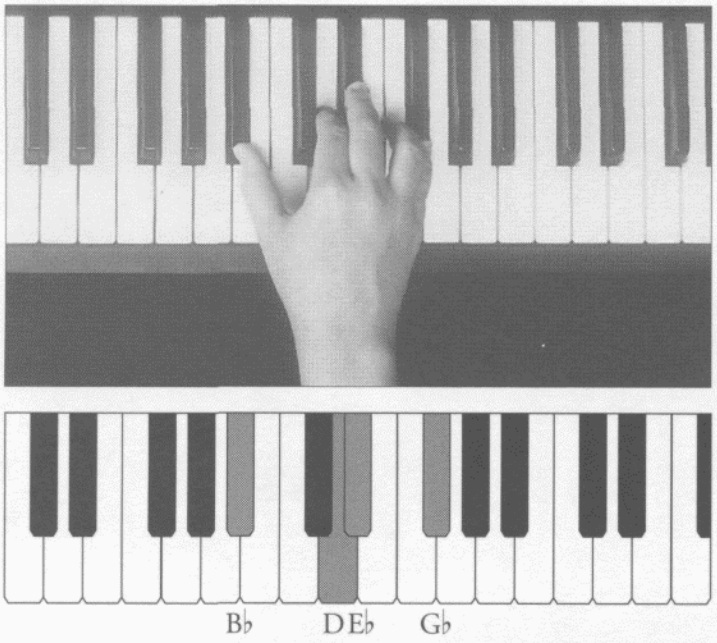
E♭ minor (major7)



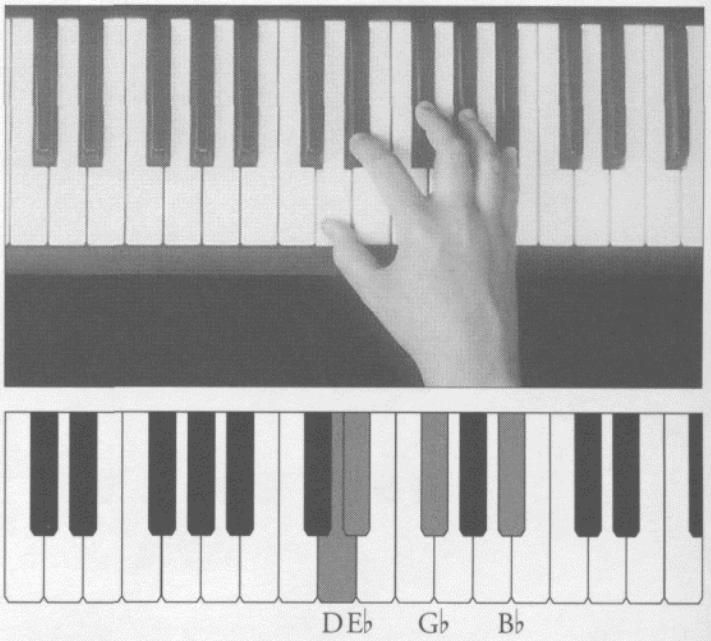
E♭ minor (major7) *first inversion*



E♭ minor (major7) *second inversion*

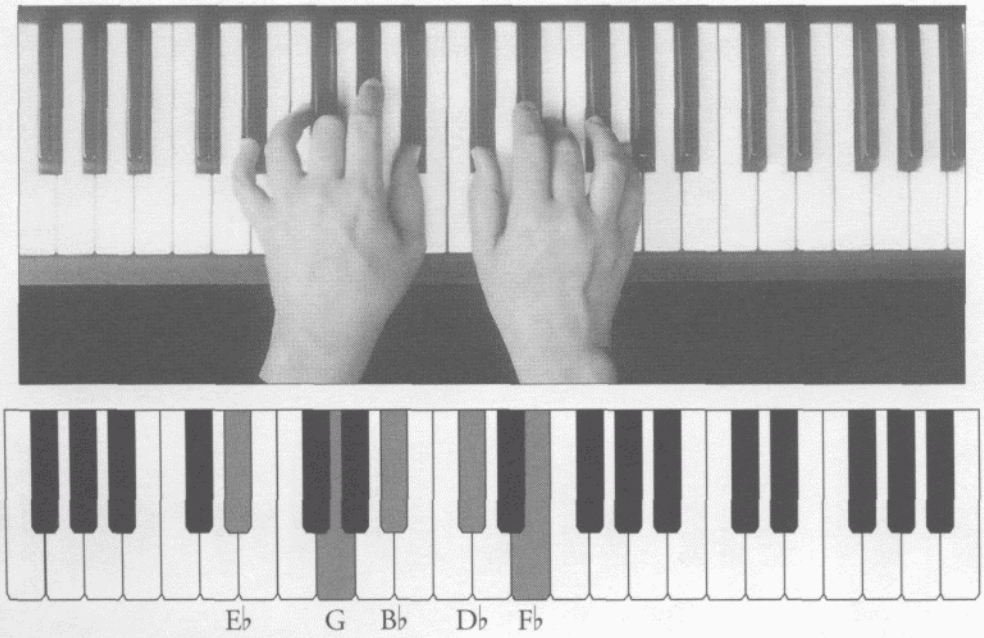


E♭ minor (major7) *third inversion*

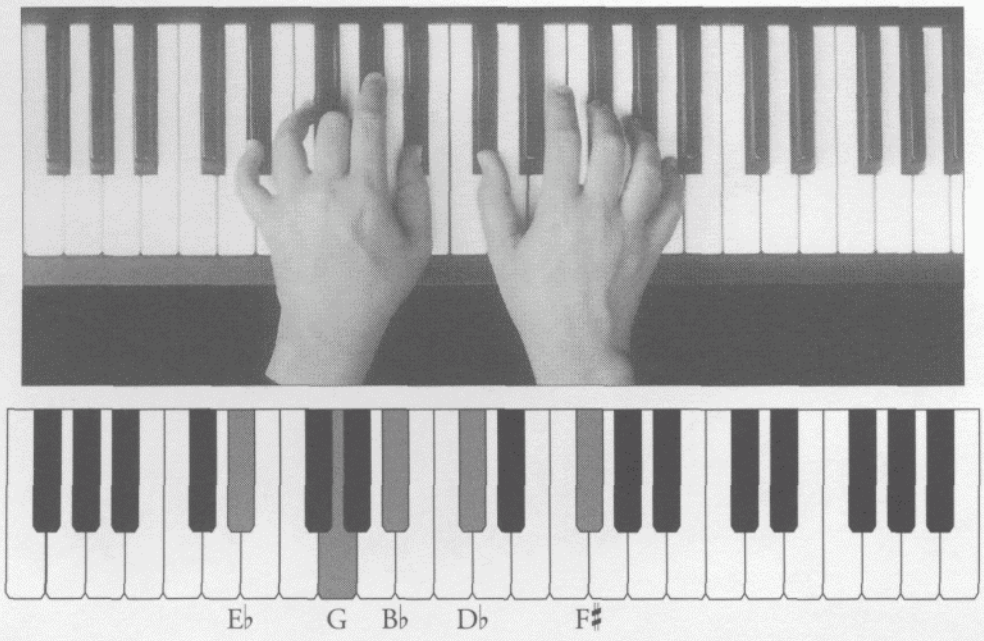


E♭ chords
using both hands

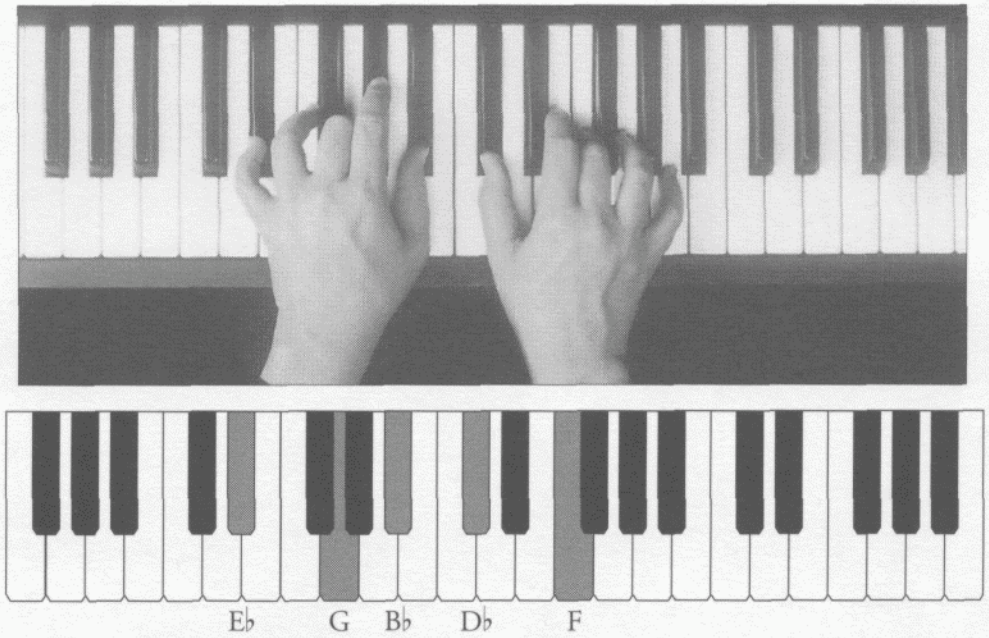
E♭7♭9



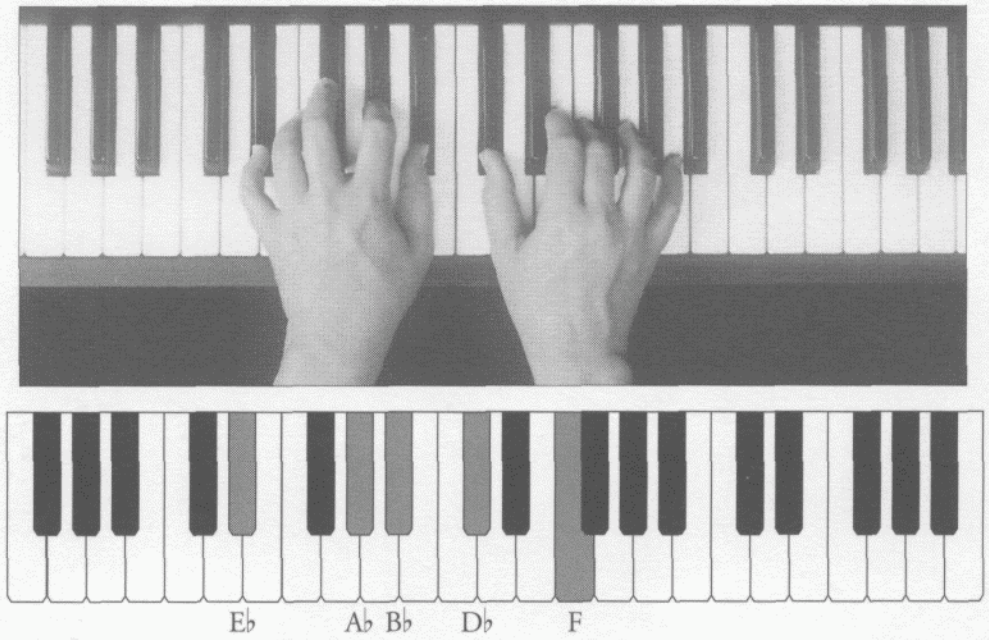
E♭7♯9



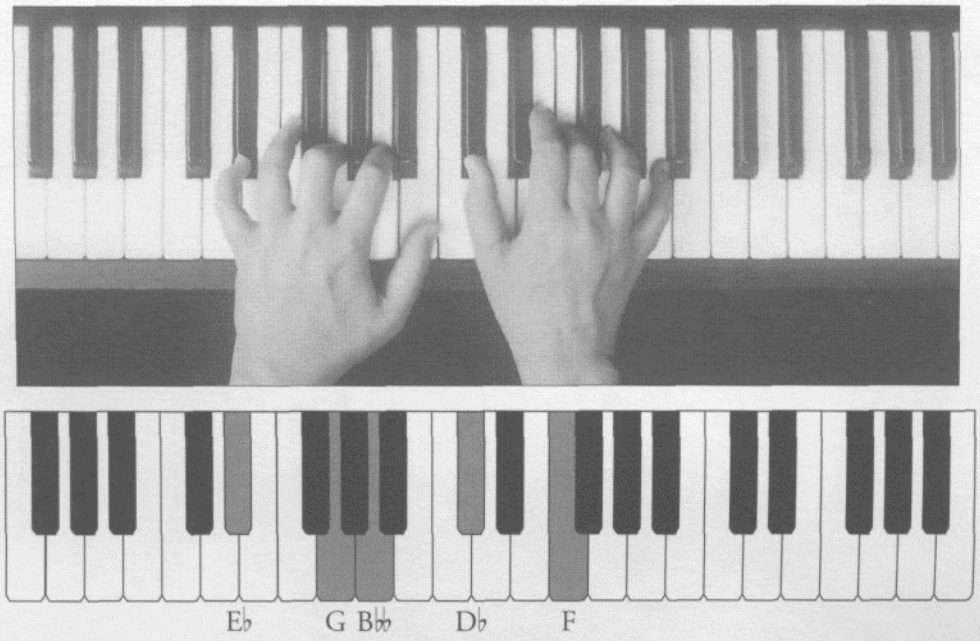
E♭9



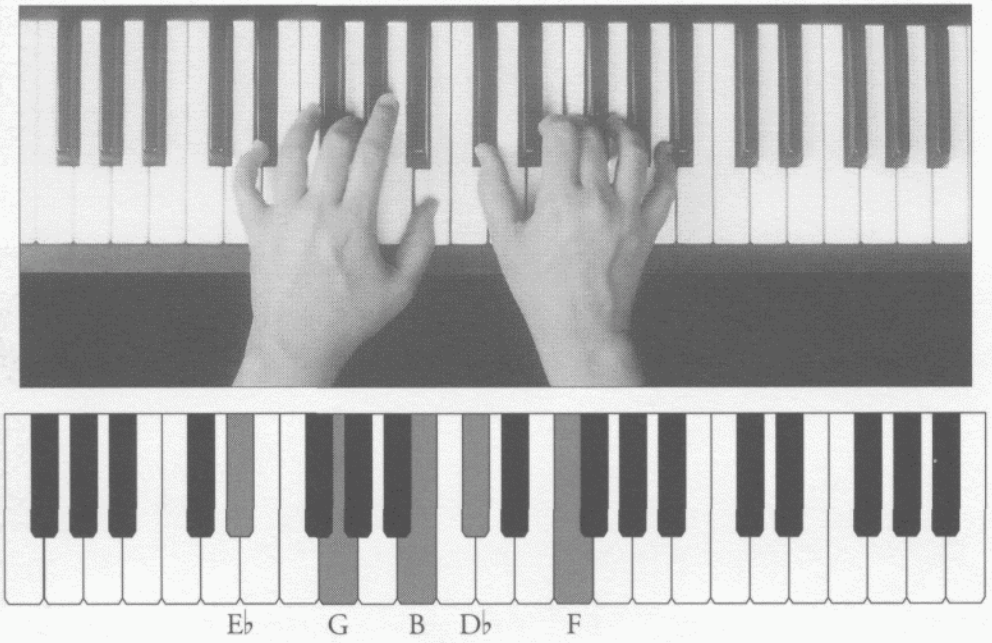
E♭9sus4



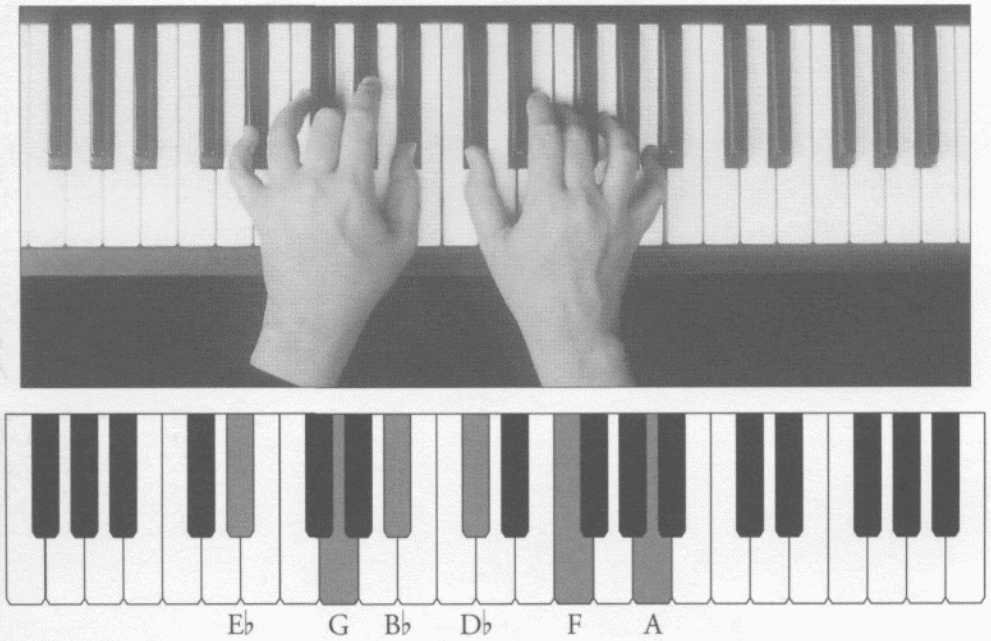
E♭9♭5



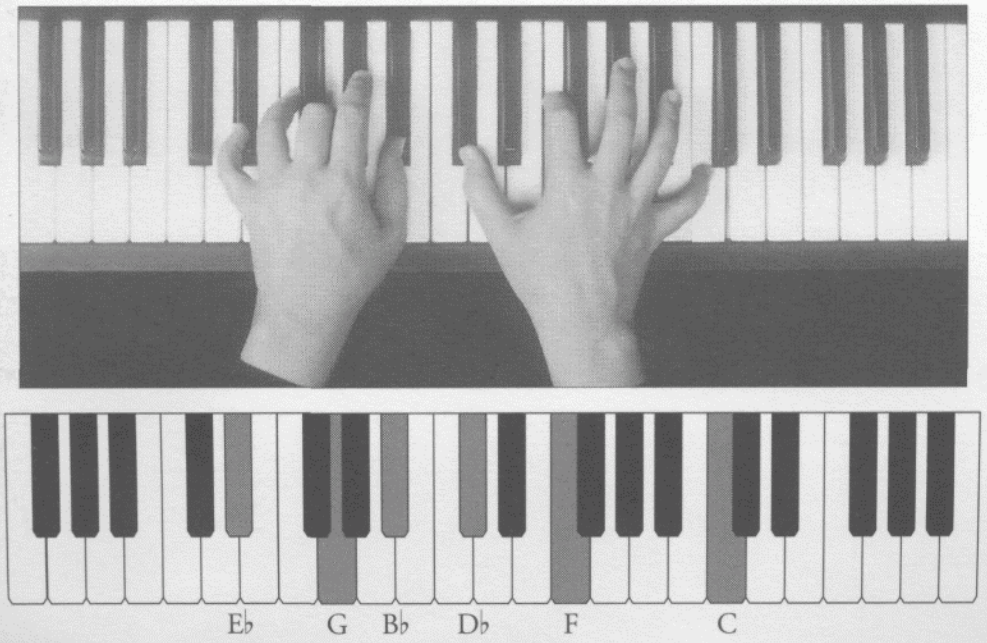
E♭9♯5



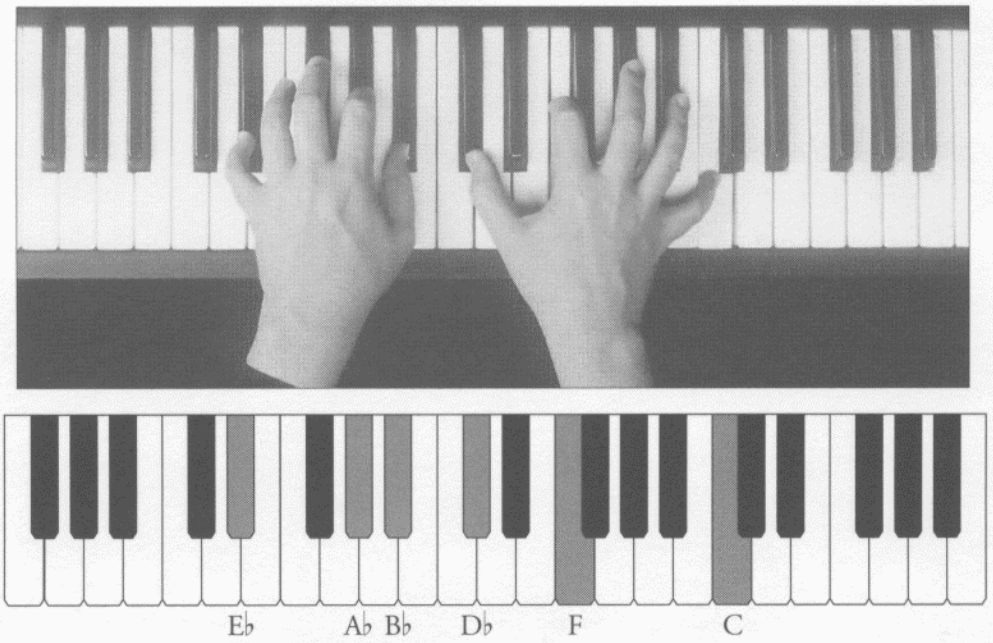
E♭9♯11



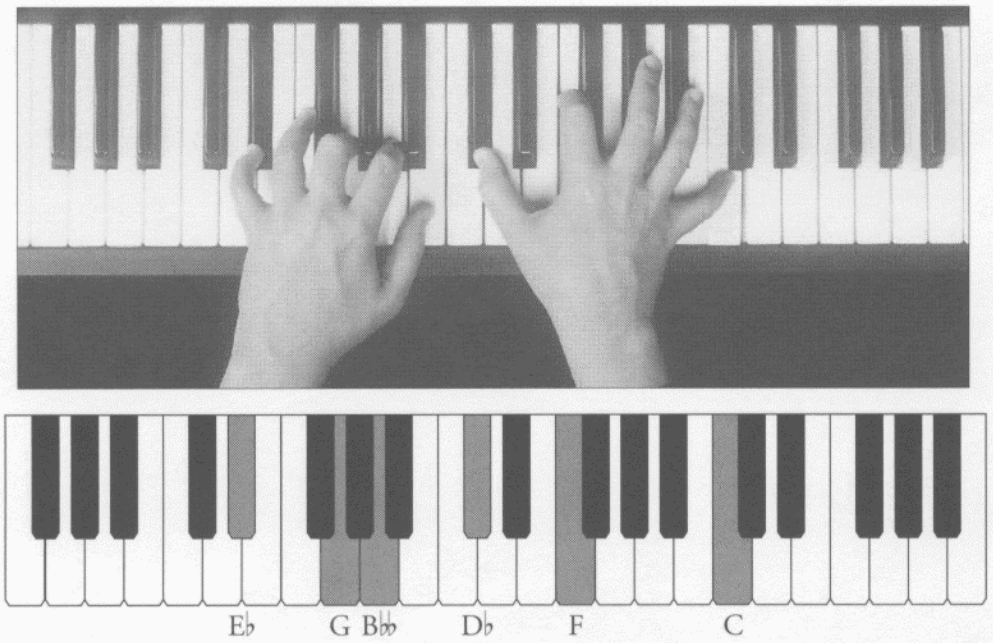
E♭13



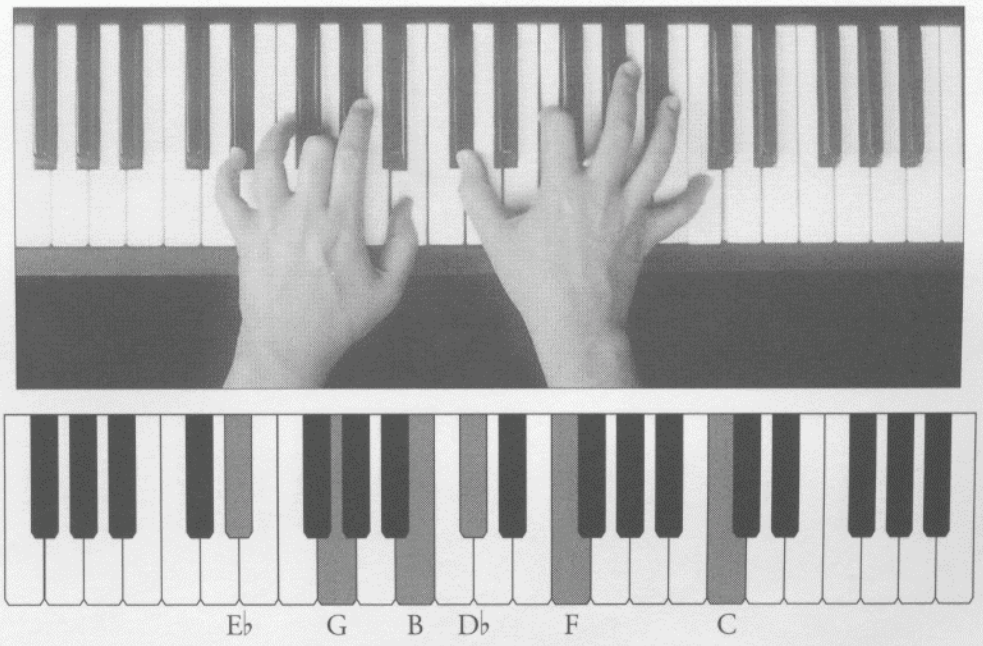
E♭13sus4



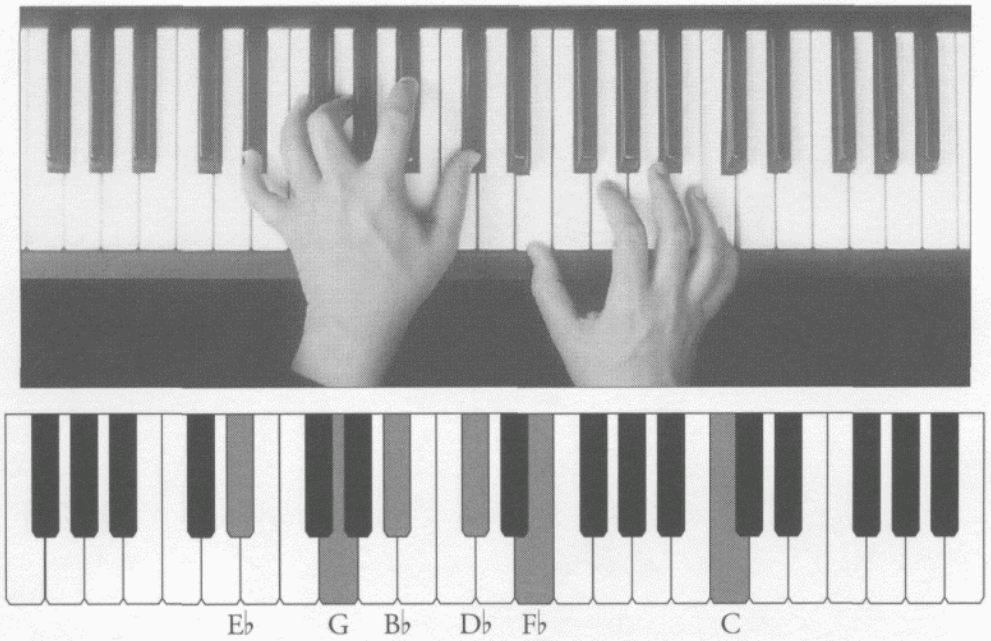
E♭13♭5



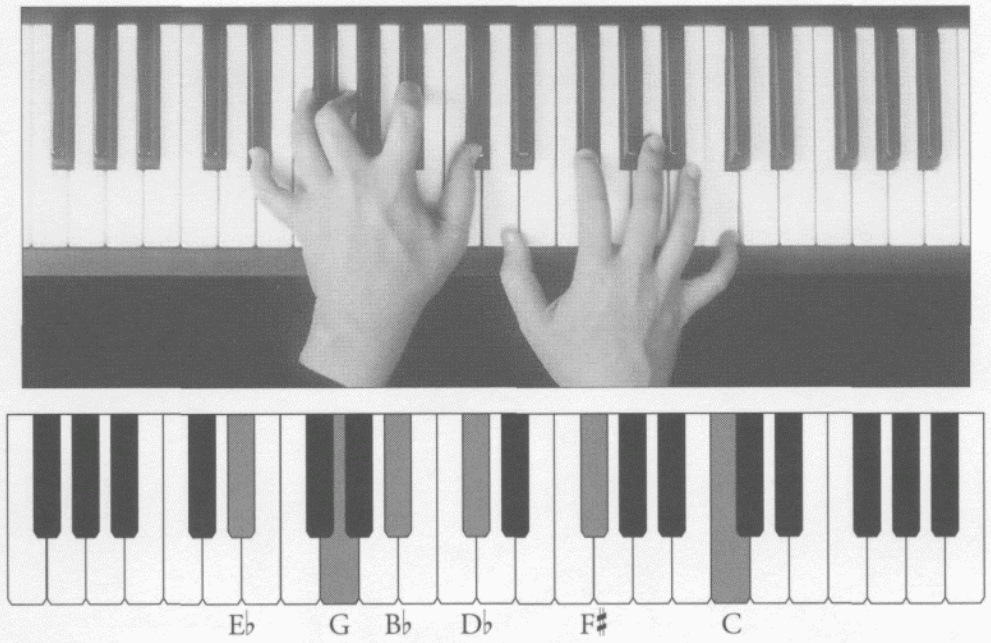
E♭13♯5



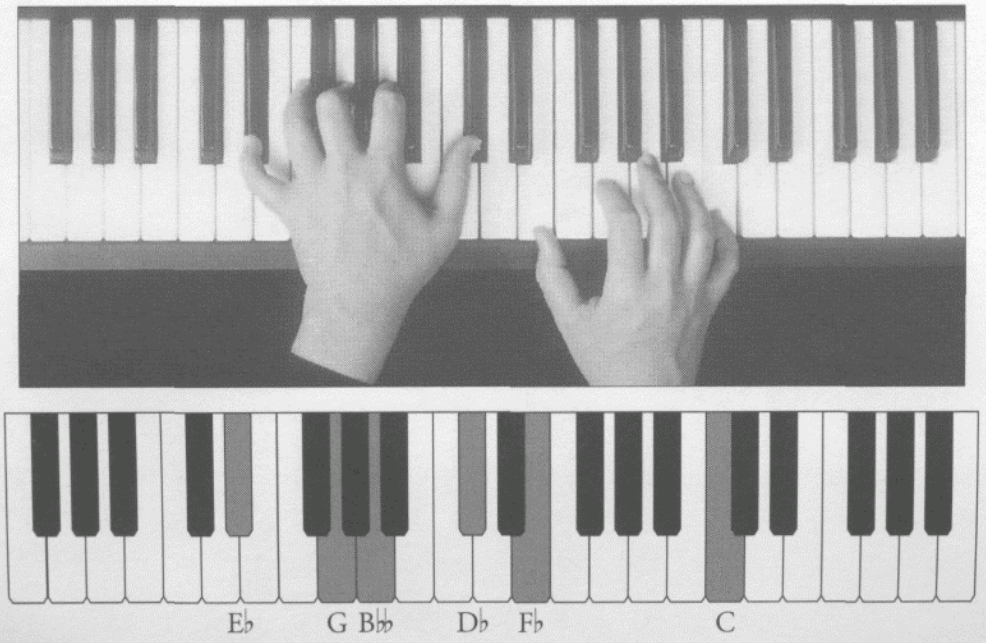
E♭13♭9



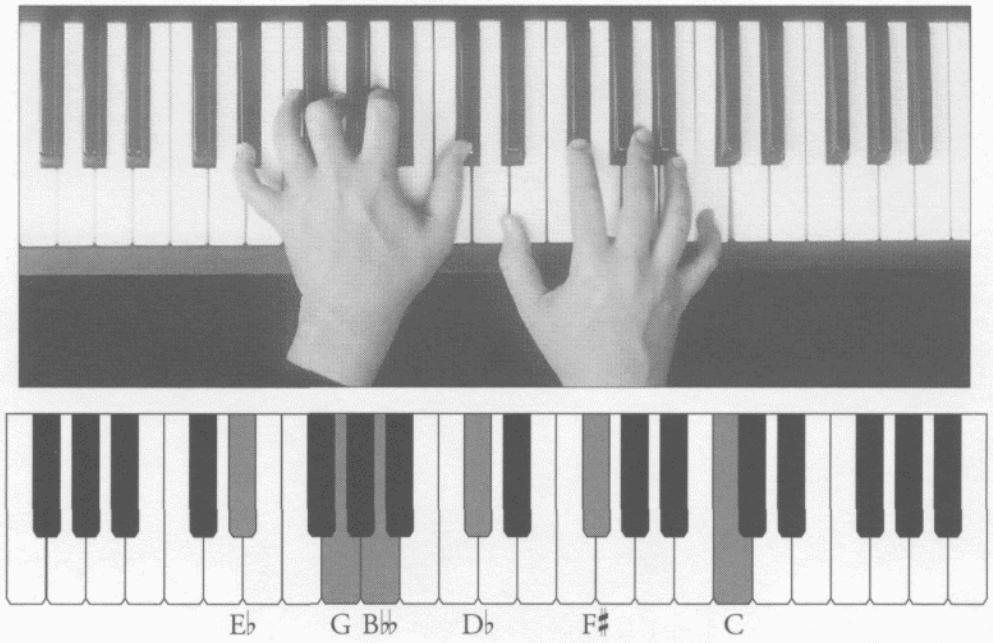
E♭13♯9



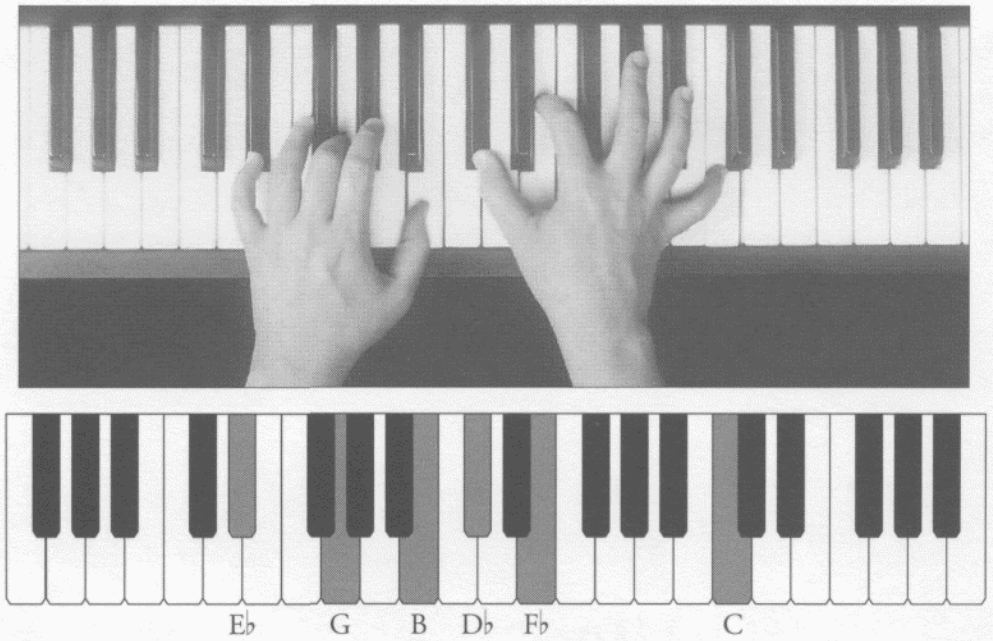
E♭13♭5♭9



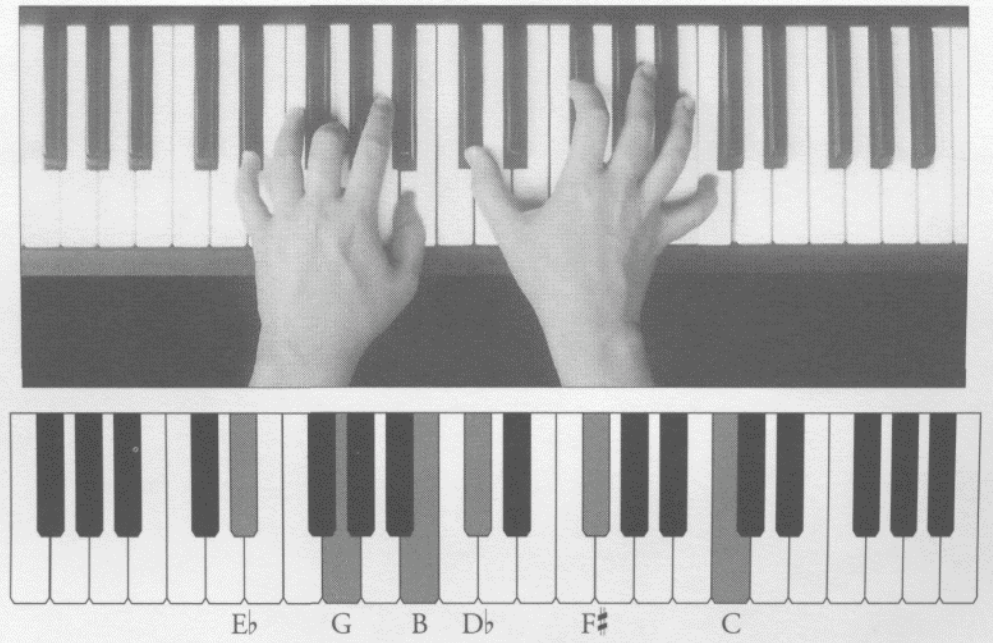
E♭13♭5♯9



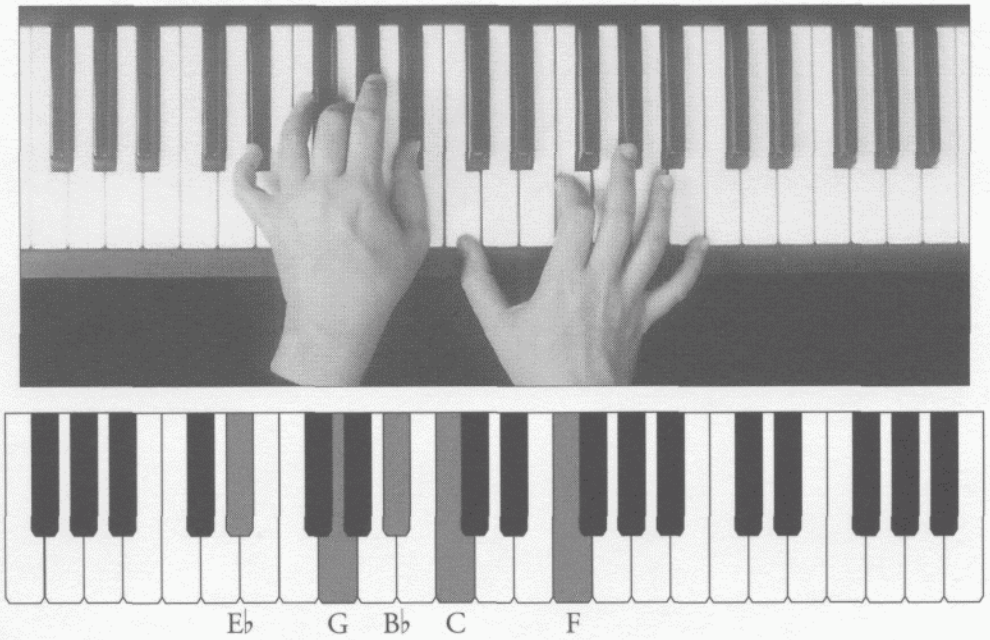
E♭13♯5♭9



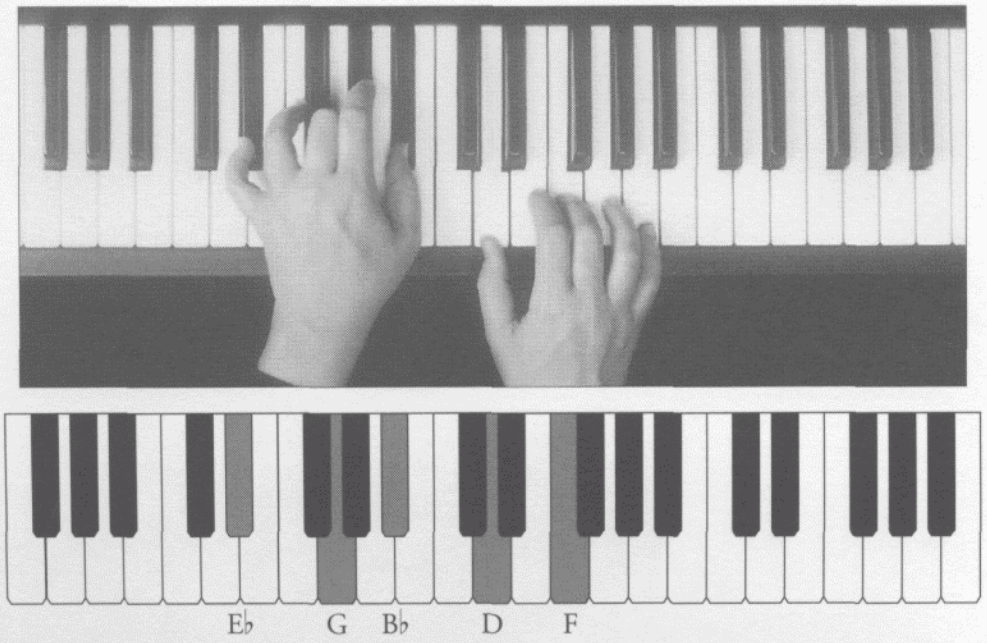
E♭13♯5♯9



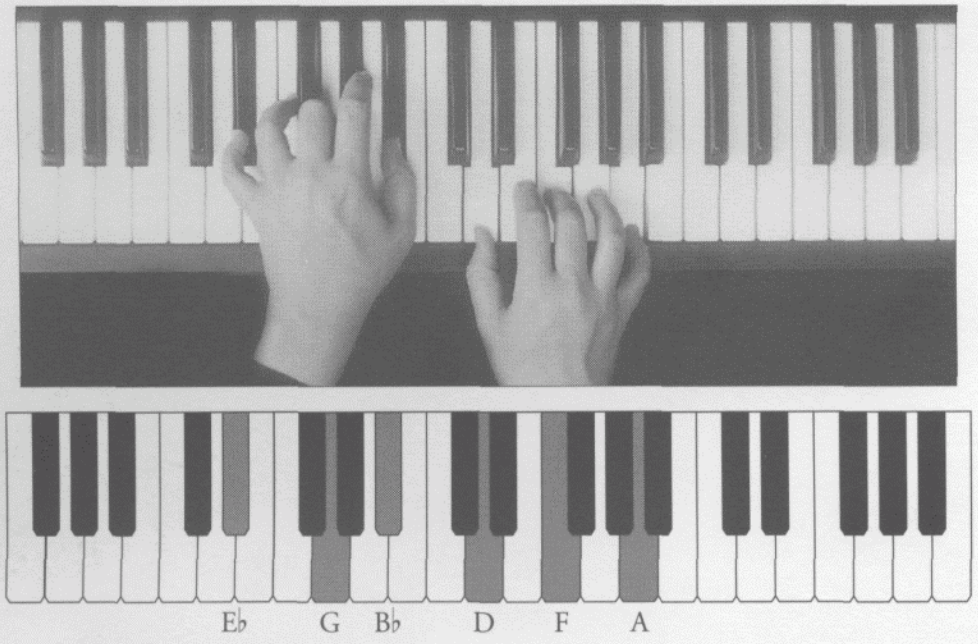
E♭ 6/9



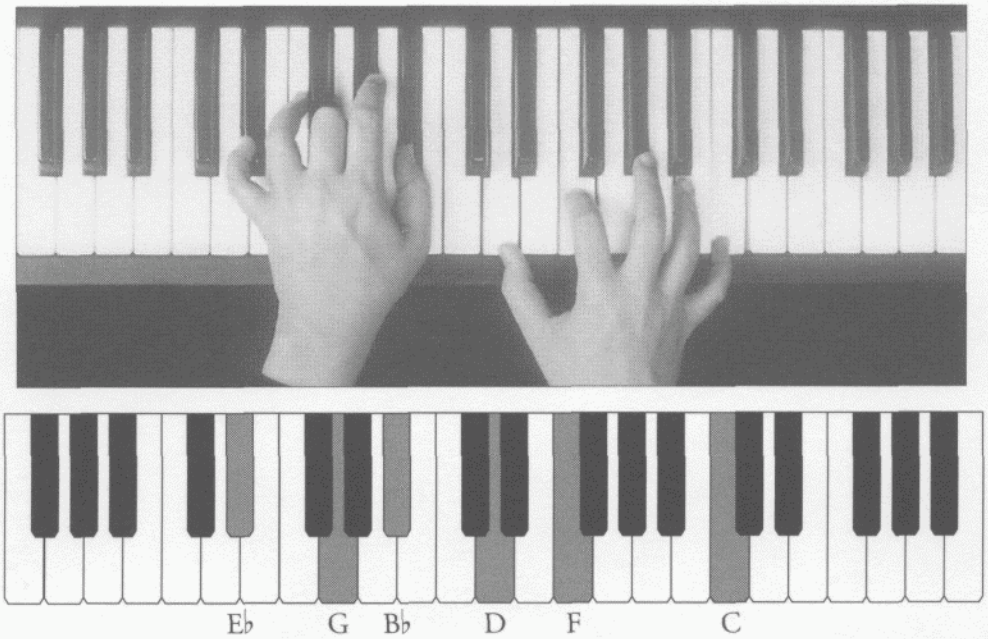
E♭ major9



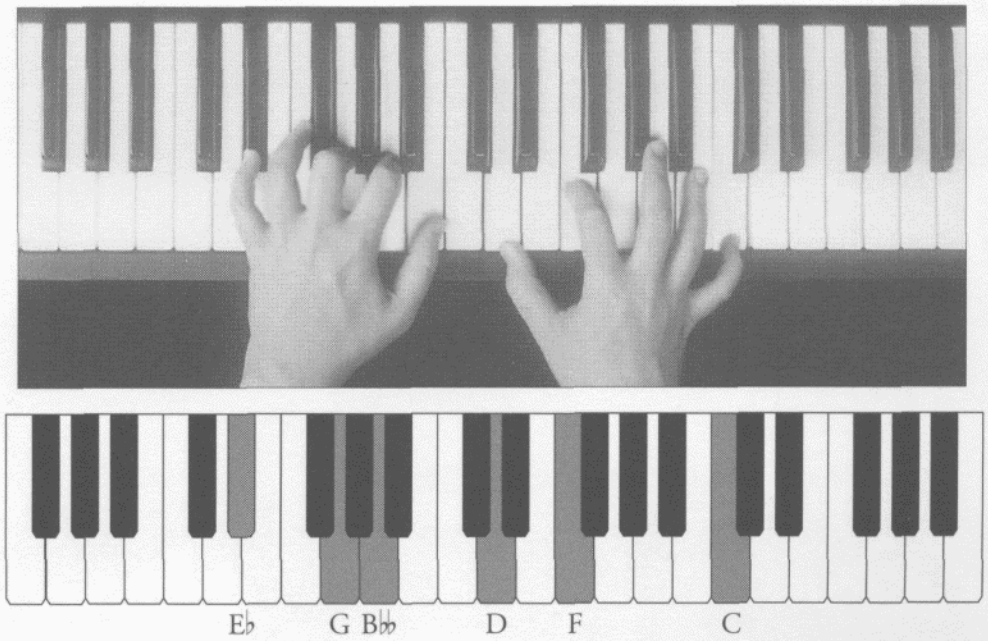
E♭ major9♯11



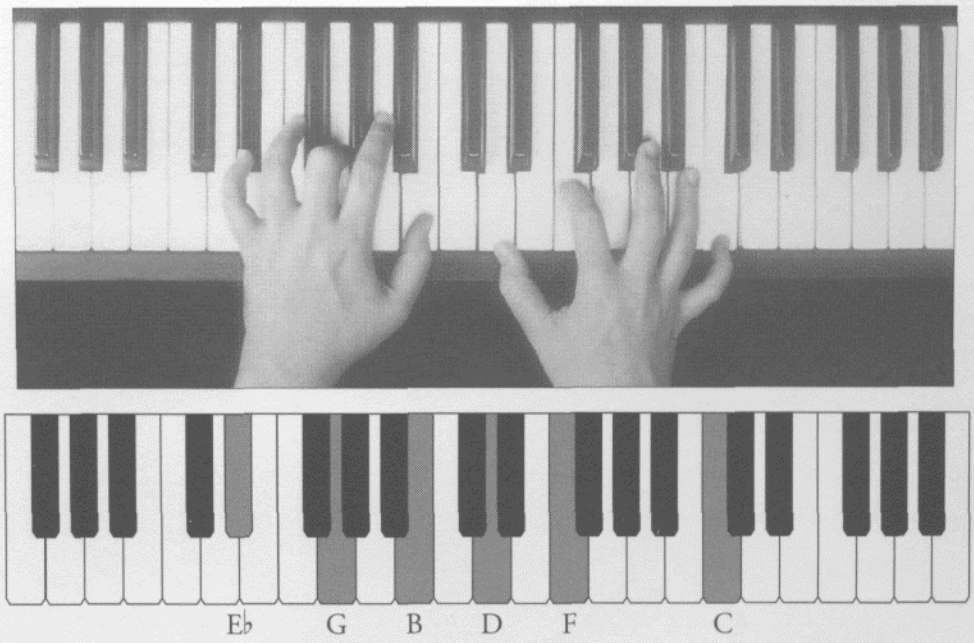
E♭ major13



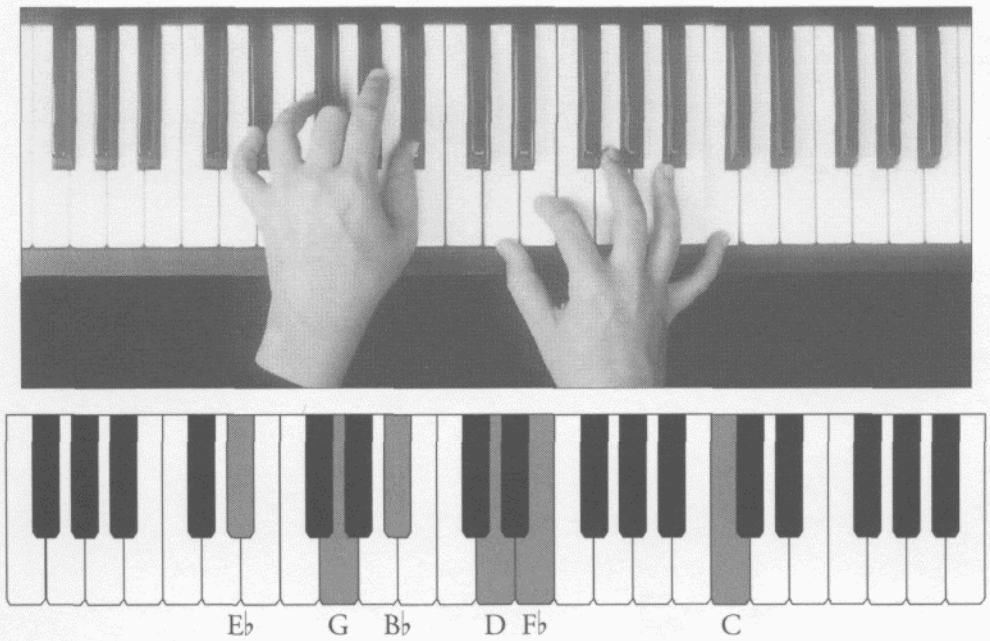
E♭ major13♭5



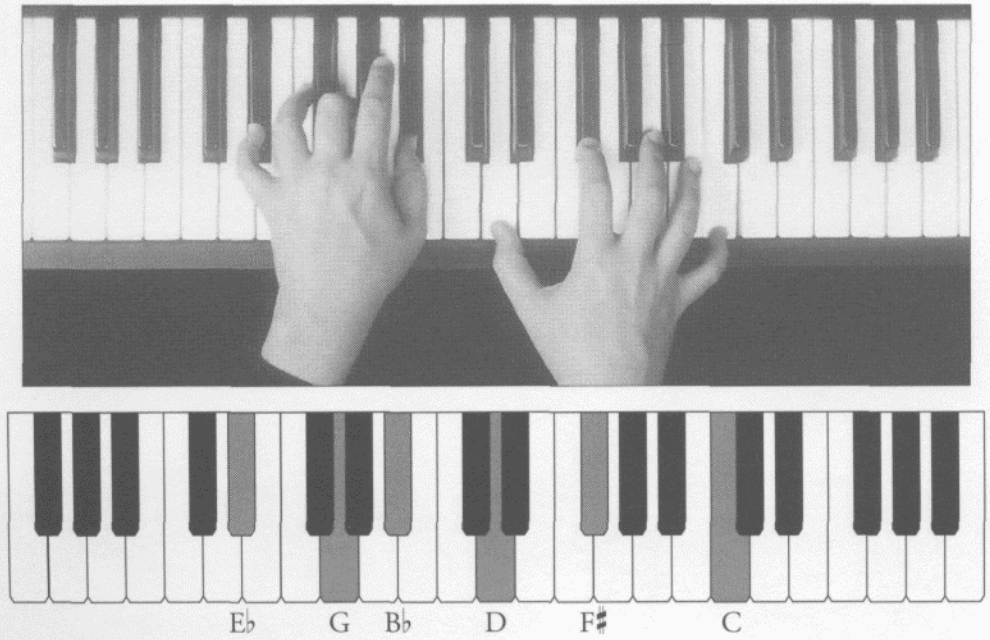
E♭ major13♯5



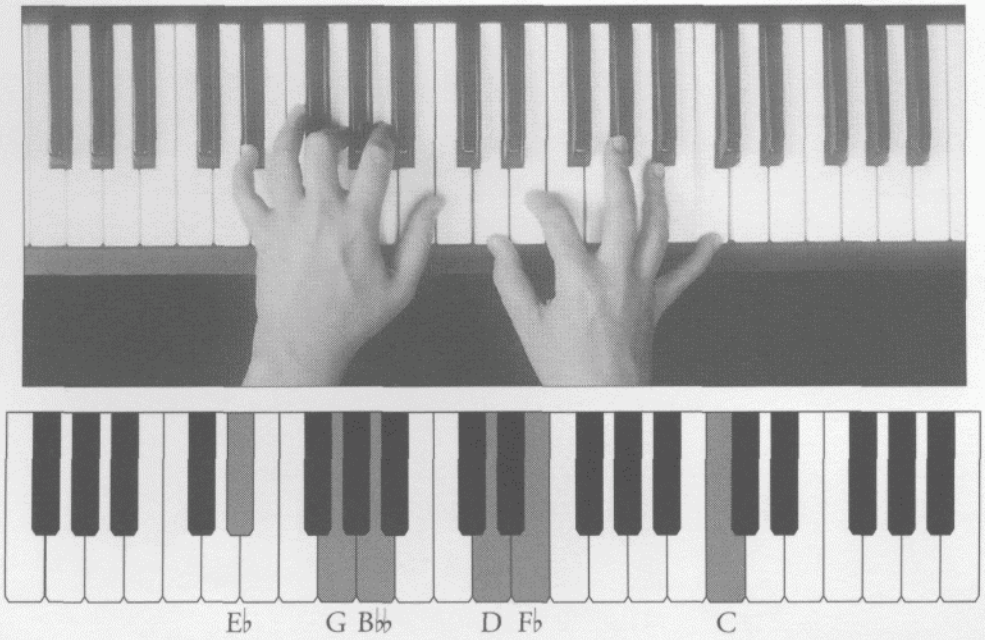
E♭ major13♭9



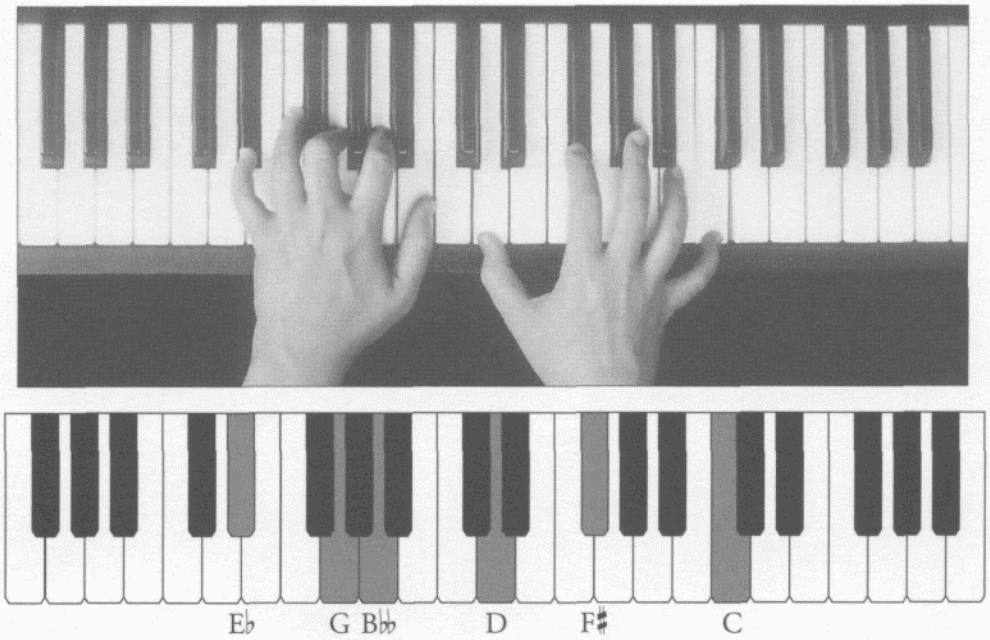
E♭ major13♯9



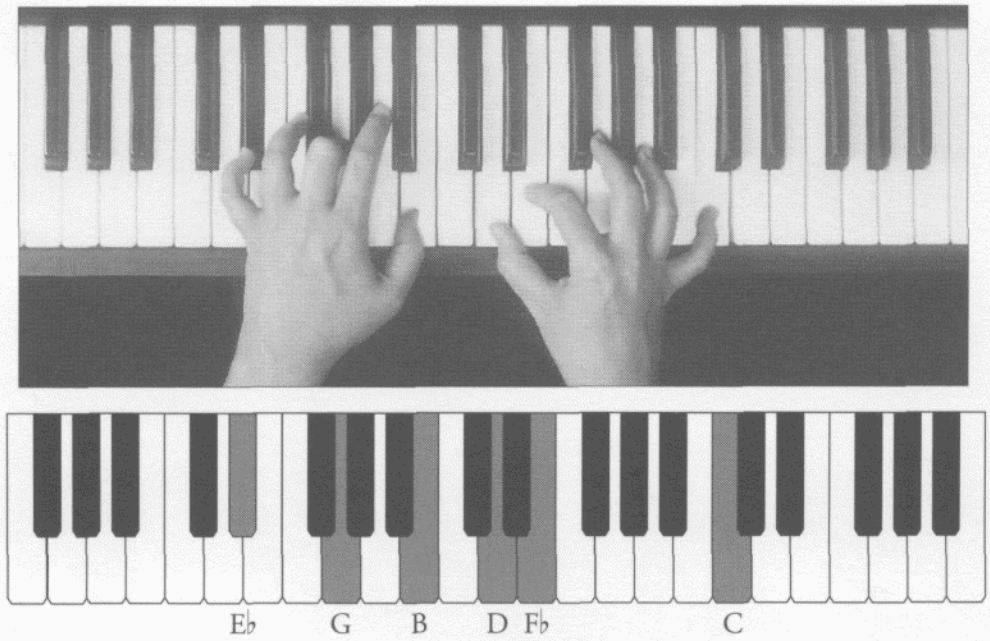
E♭ major13♭5♭9



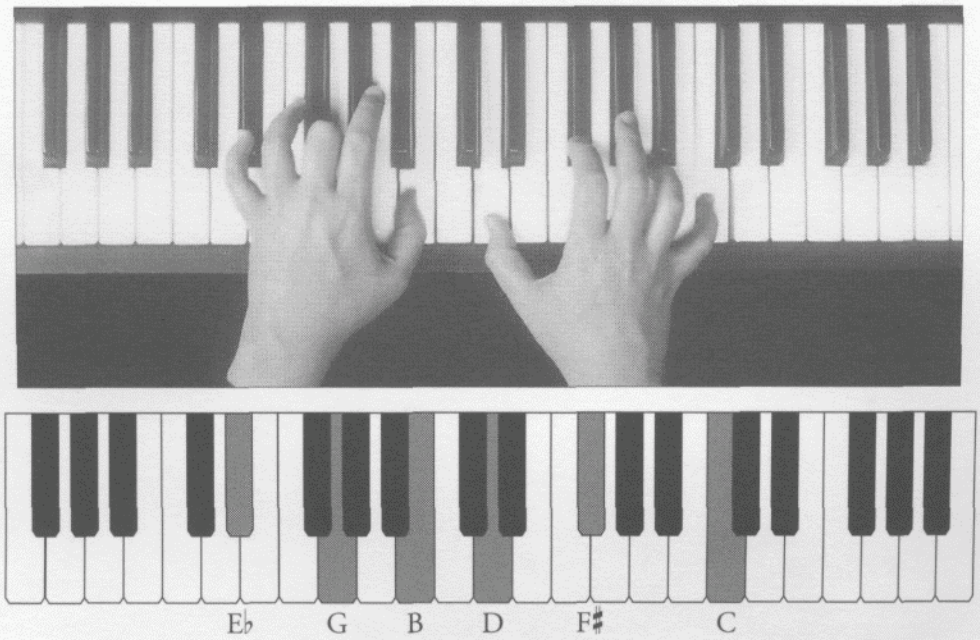
E♭ major13♭5♯9



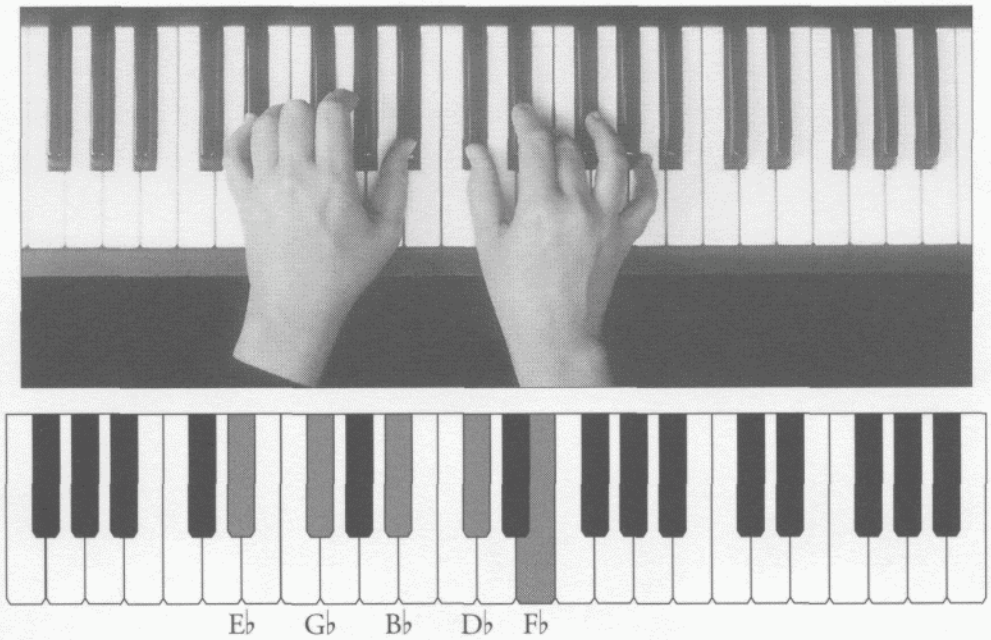
E♭ major13♯5♭9



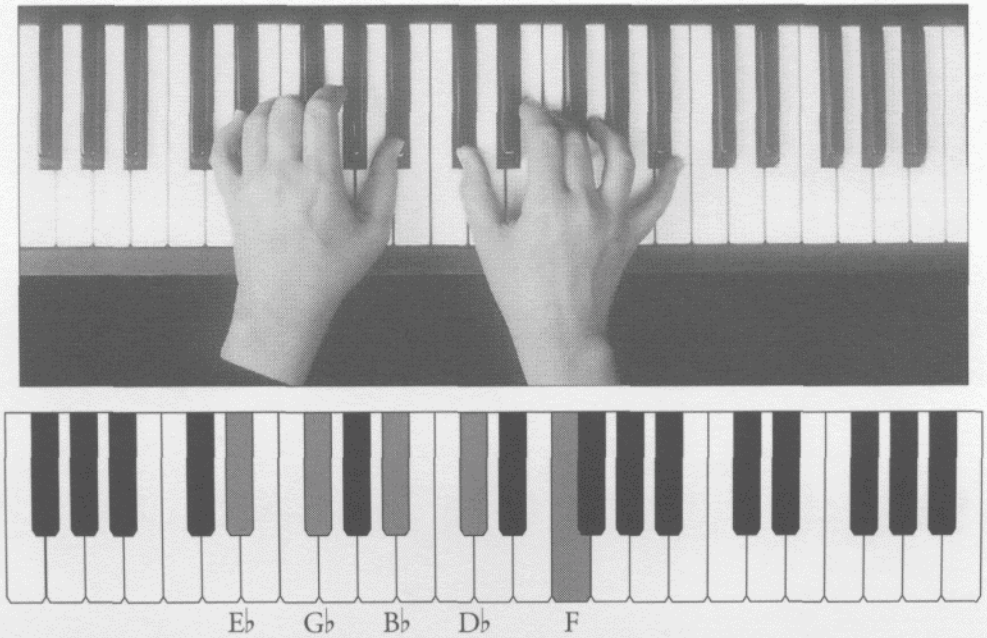
E♭ major13♯5♯9



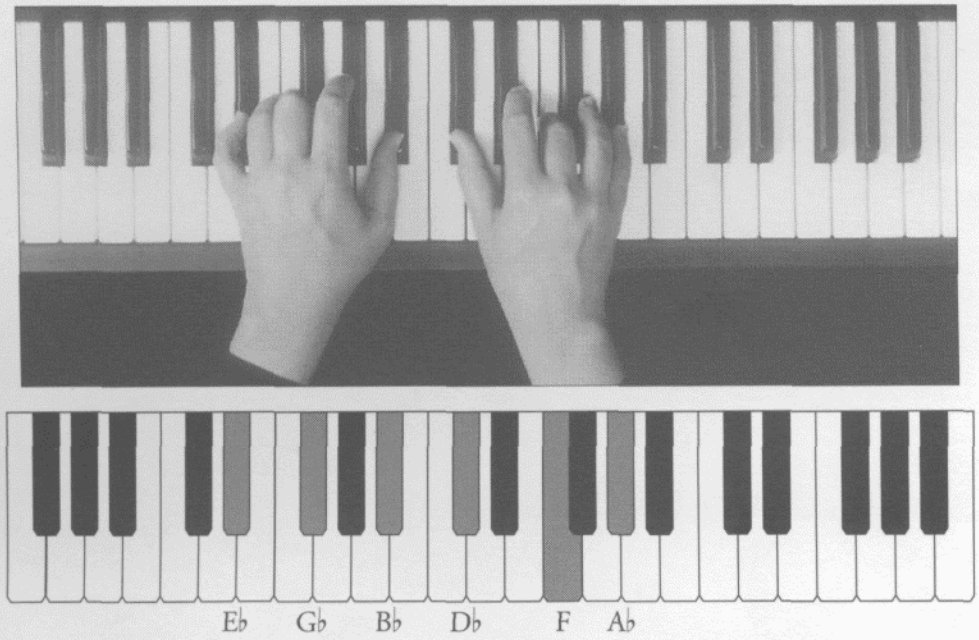
E♭ minor7♭9



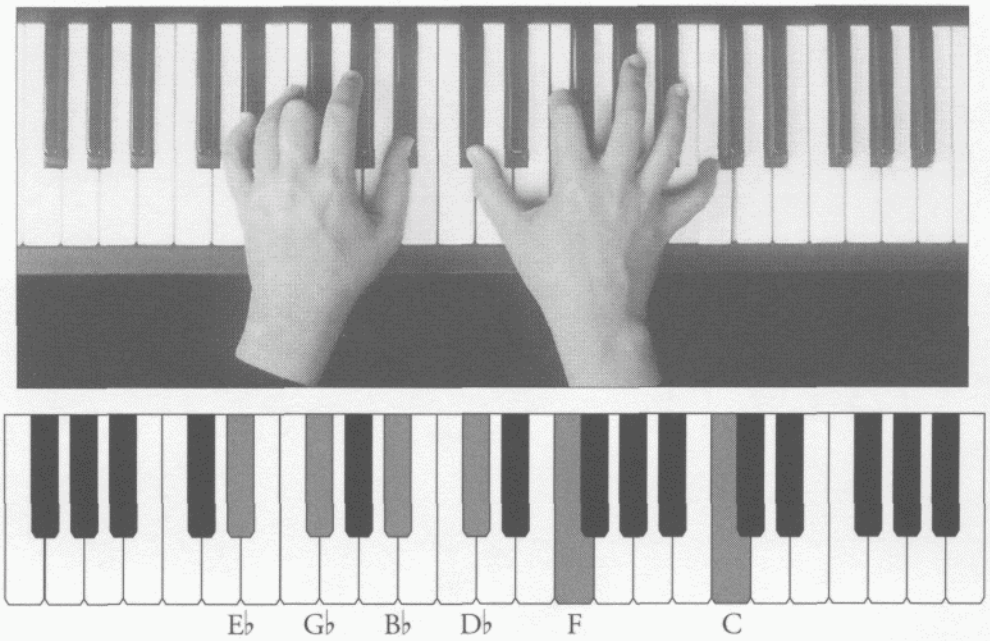
E♭ minor9



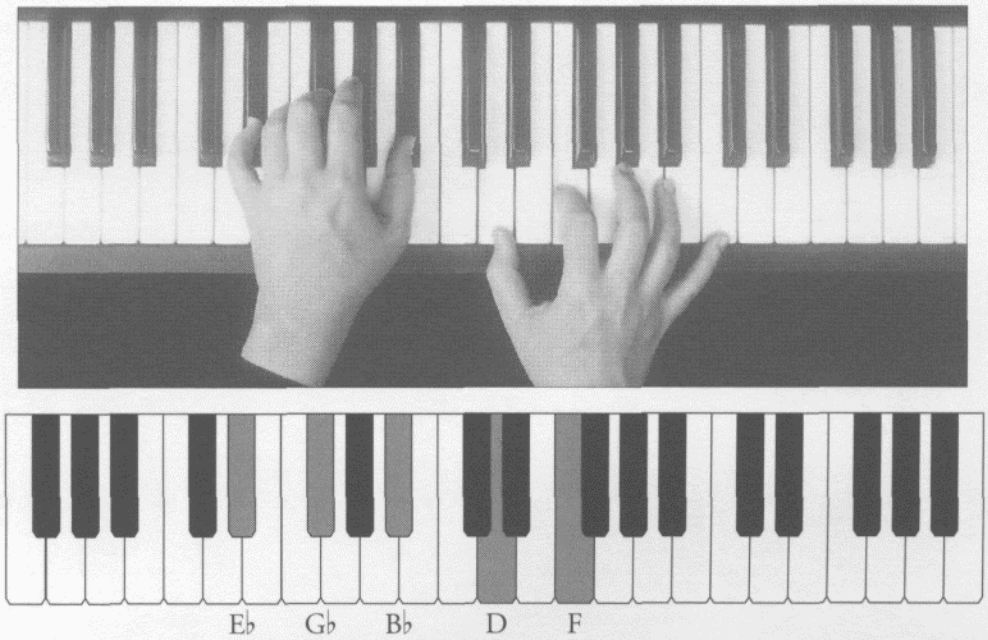
E♭ minor11



E♭ minor13

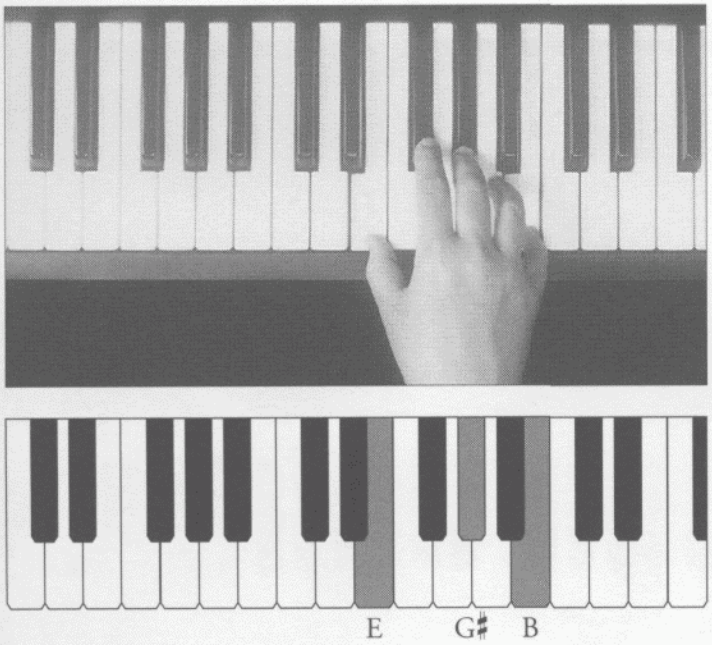


E♭ minor9 (major7)

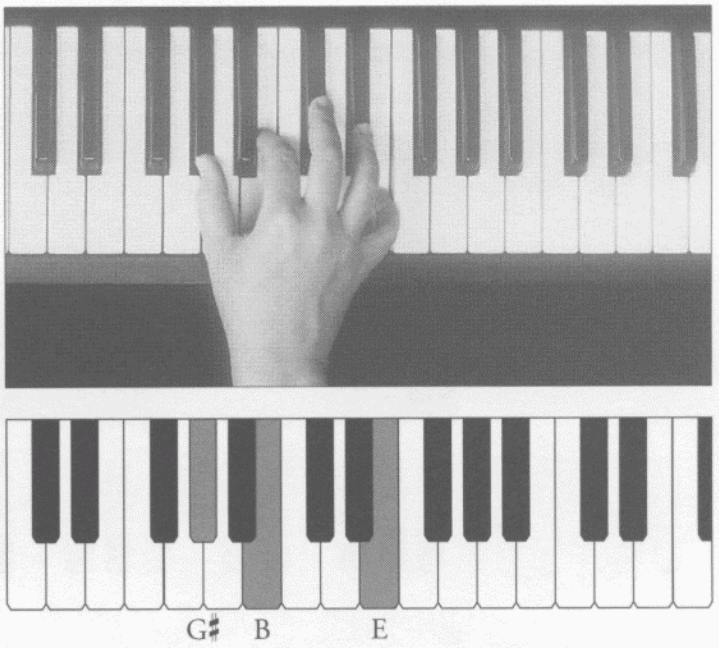


E chords

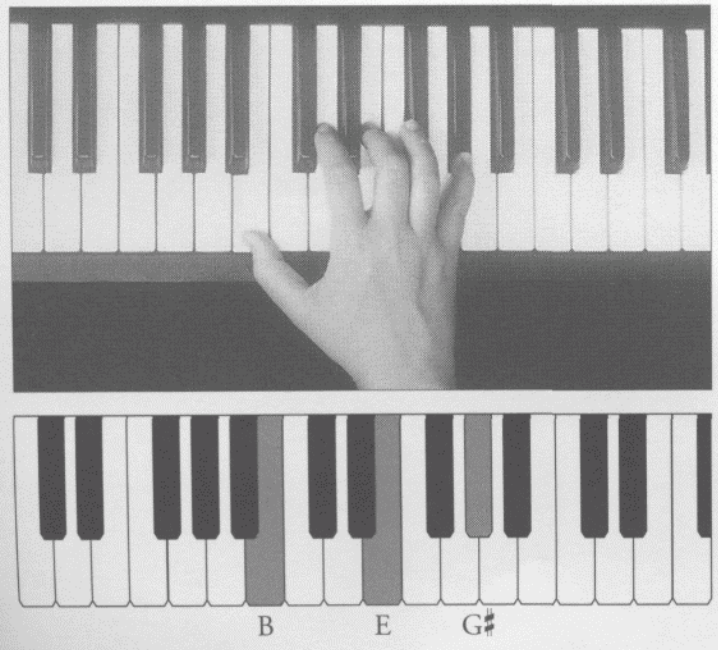
E major



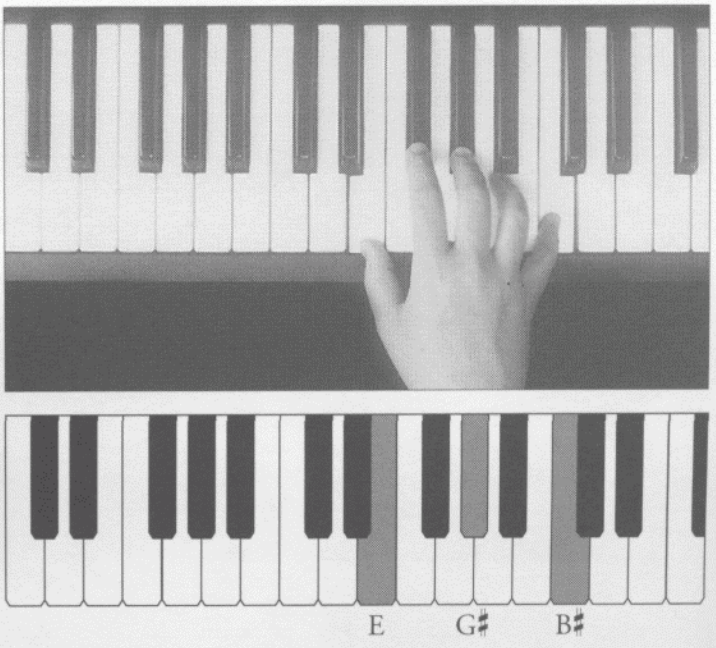
E/G♯ *first inversion*



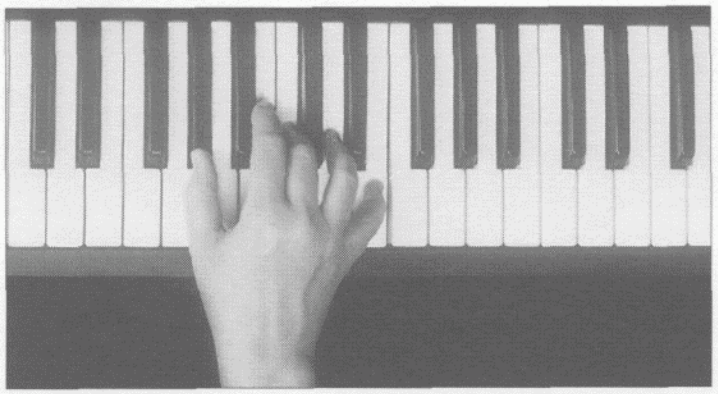
E/B *second inversion*



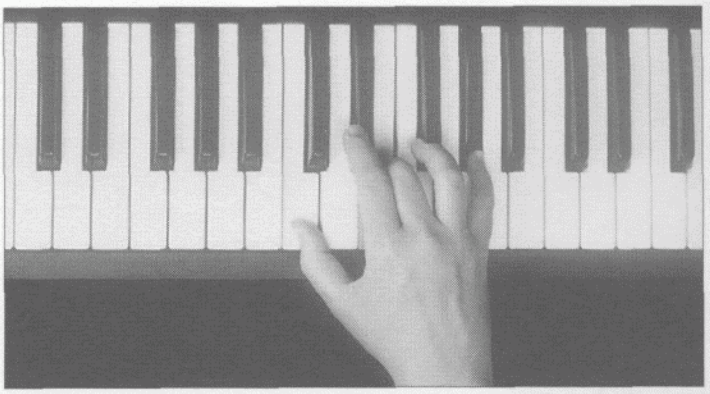
E augmented

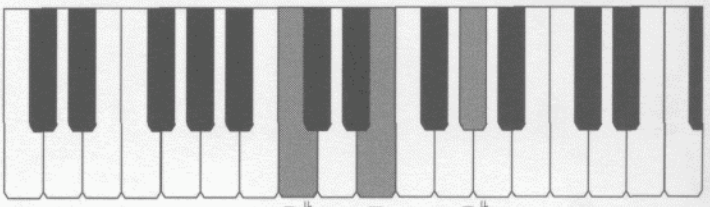


E augmented *first inversion*

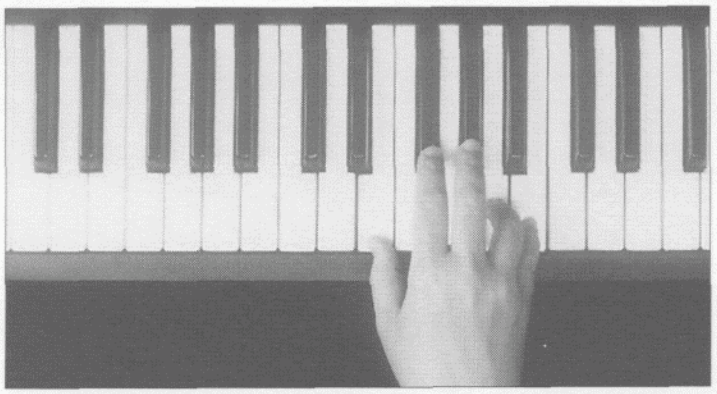


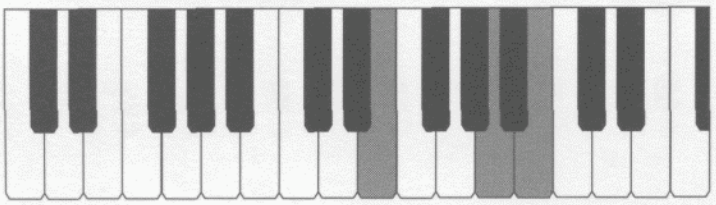
E augmented *second inversion*



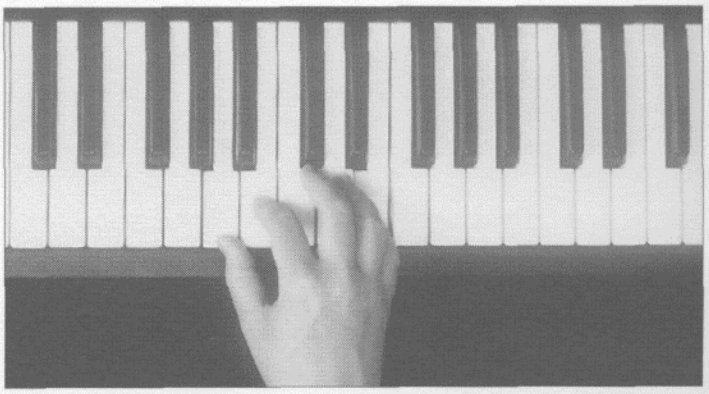


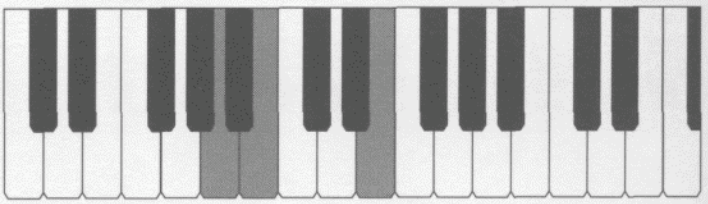
Esus4



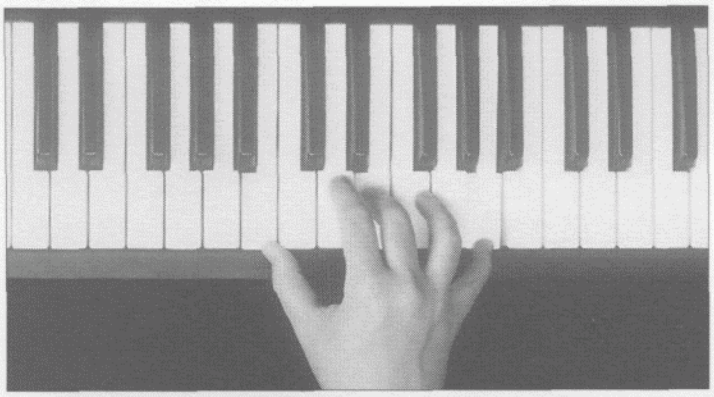


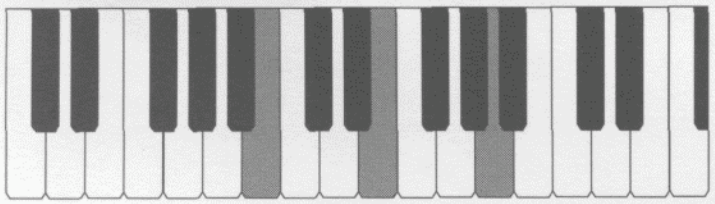
Esus4 *first inversion*



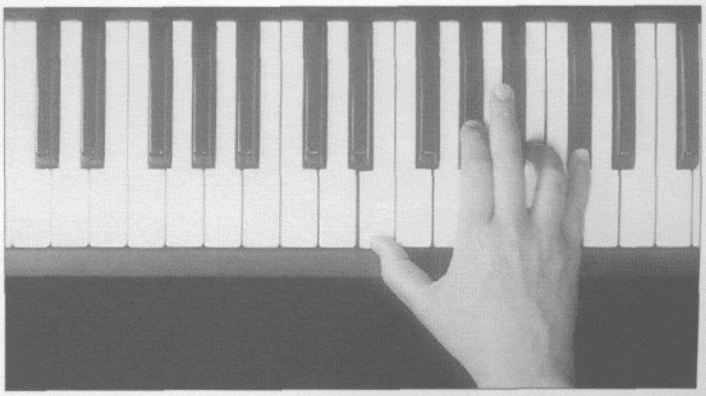


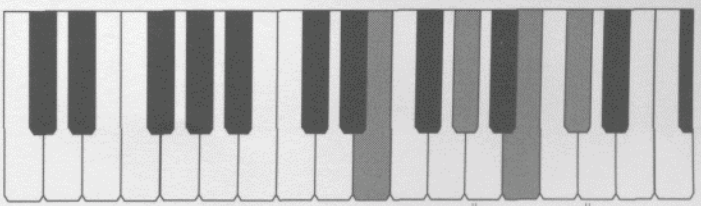
Esus4 *second inversion*



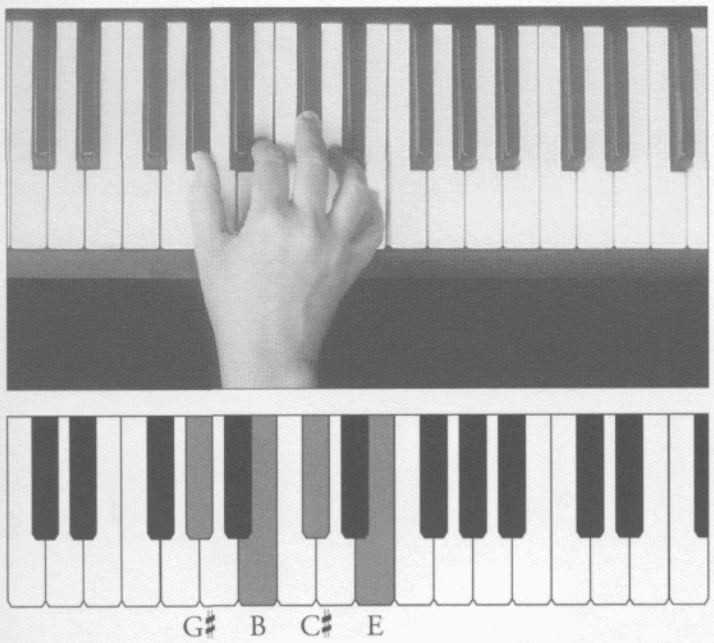


E6

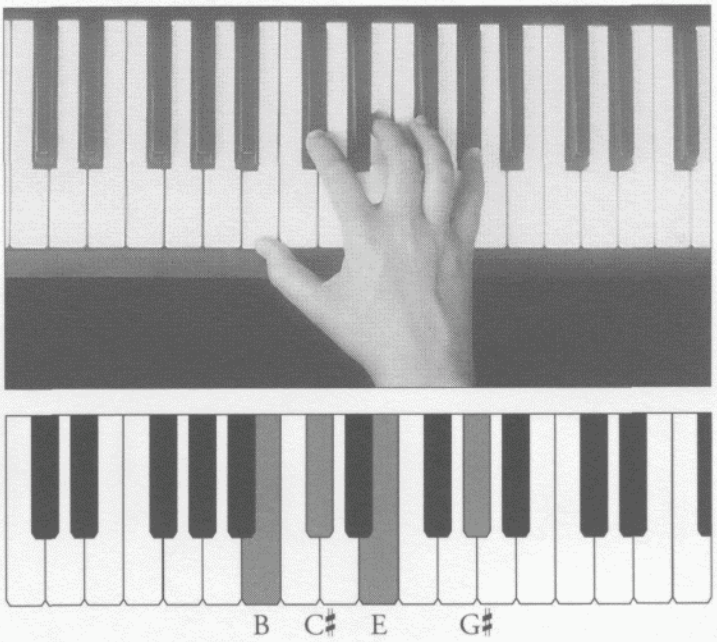




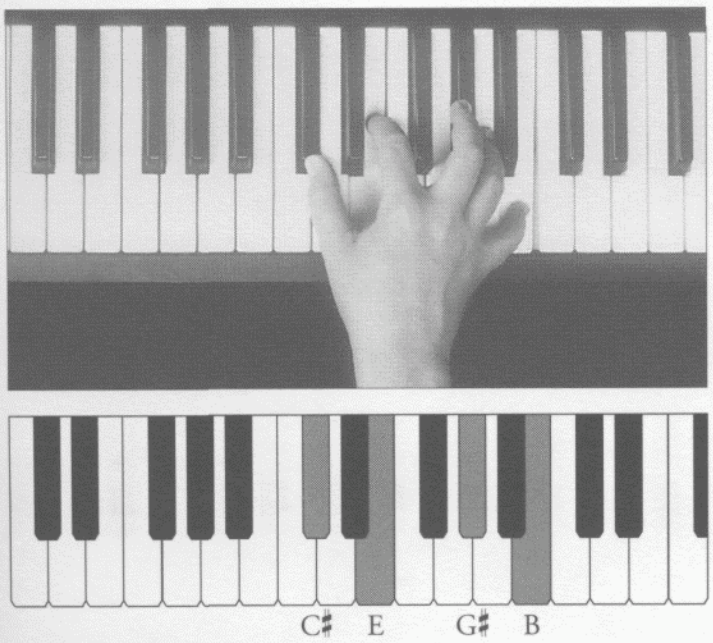
E6 *first inversion*



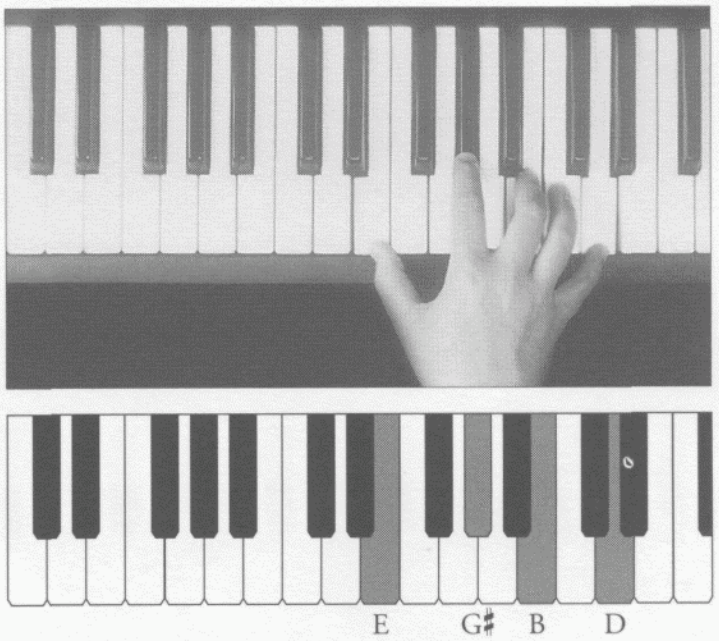
E6 *second inversion*



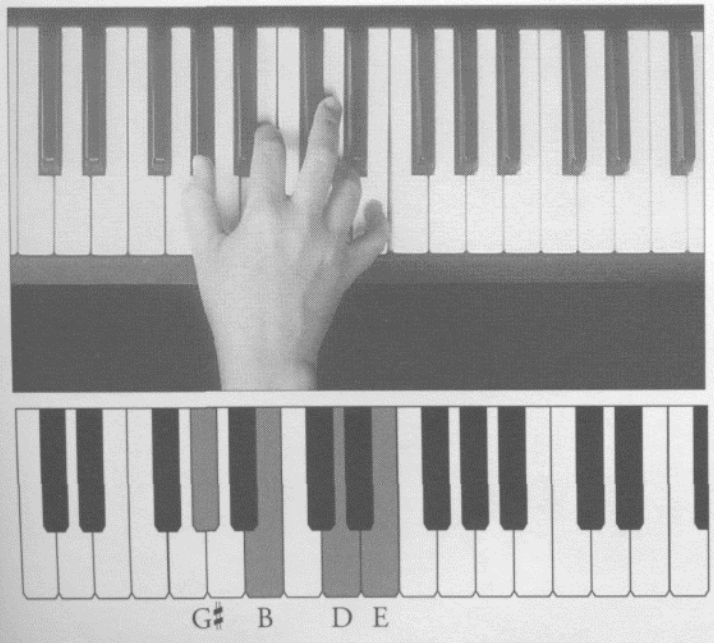
E6 *third inversion*



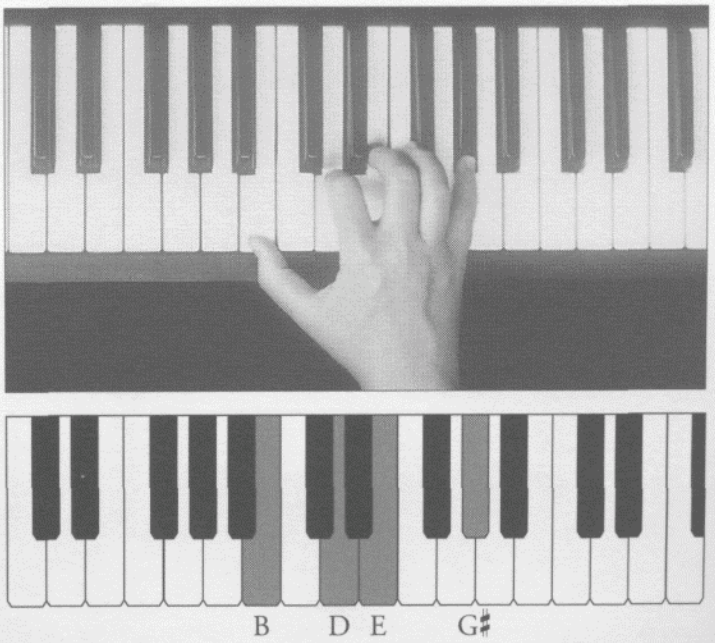
E7



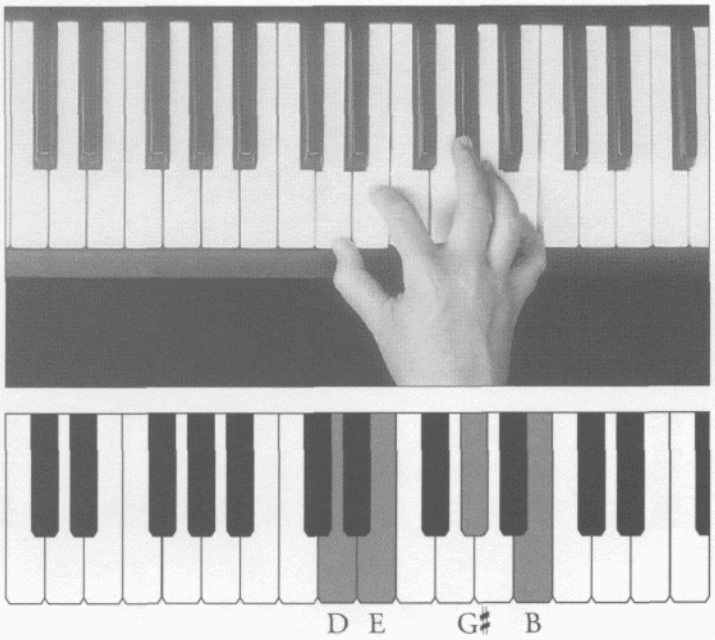
E7 *first inversion*



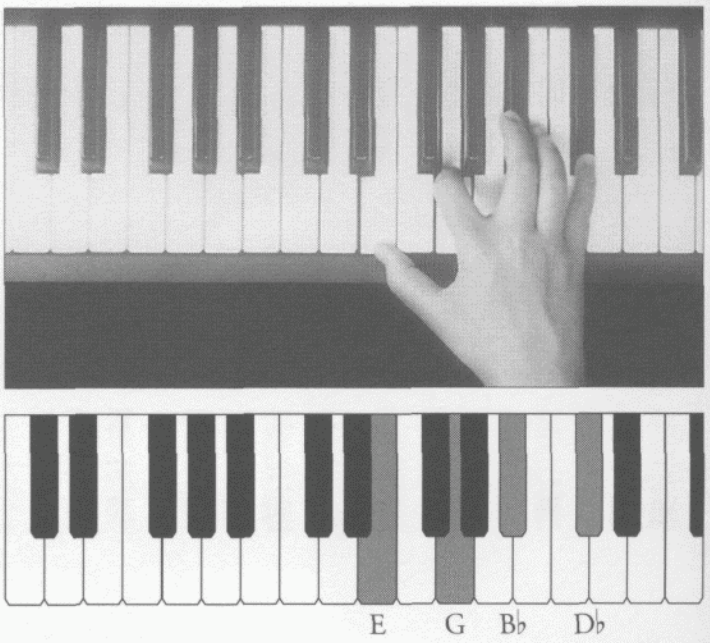
E7 *second inversion*



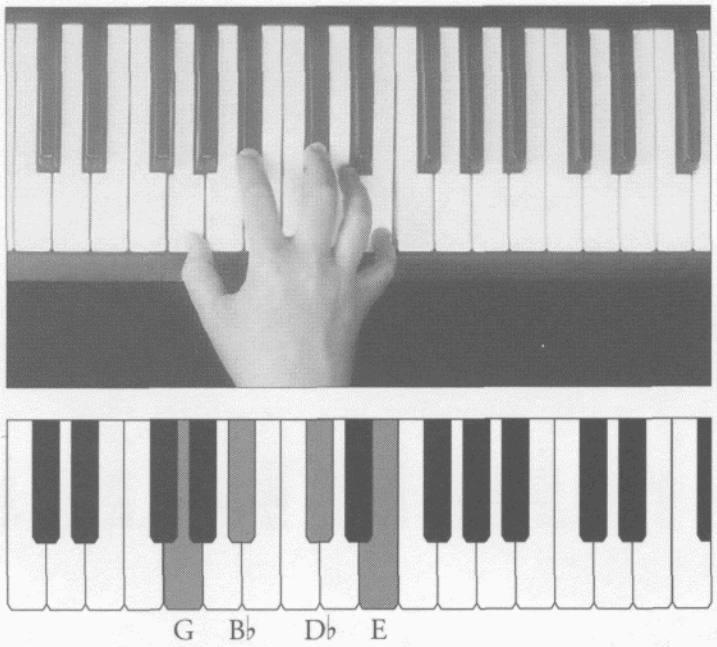
E7 *third inversion*



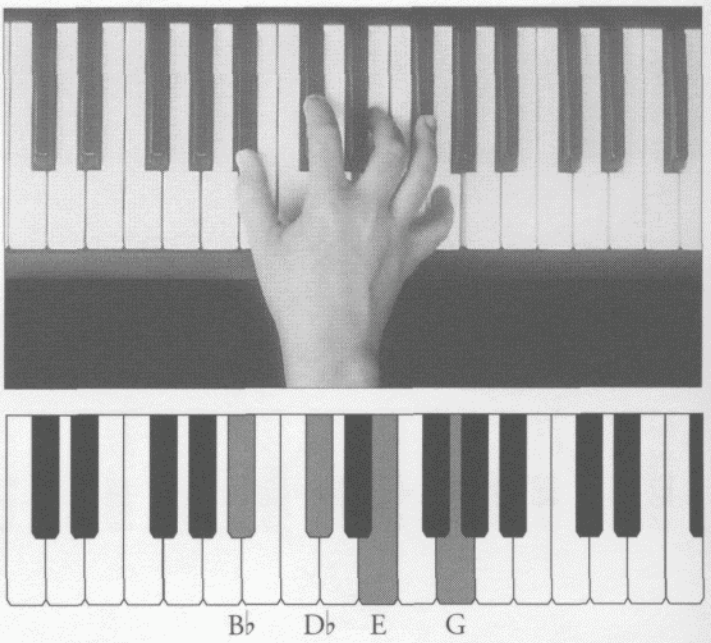
E°7



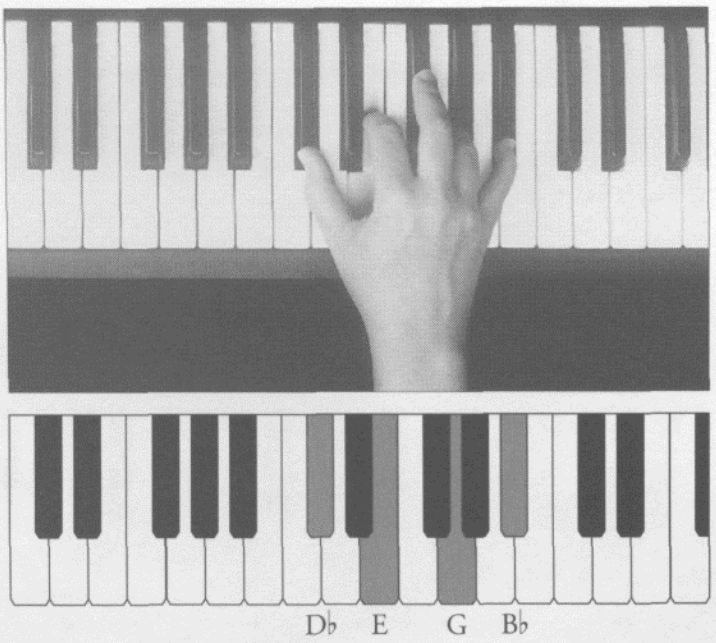
E°7 *first inversion*



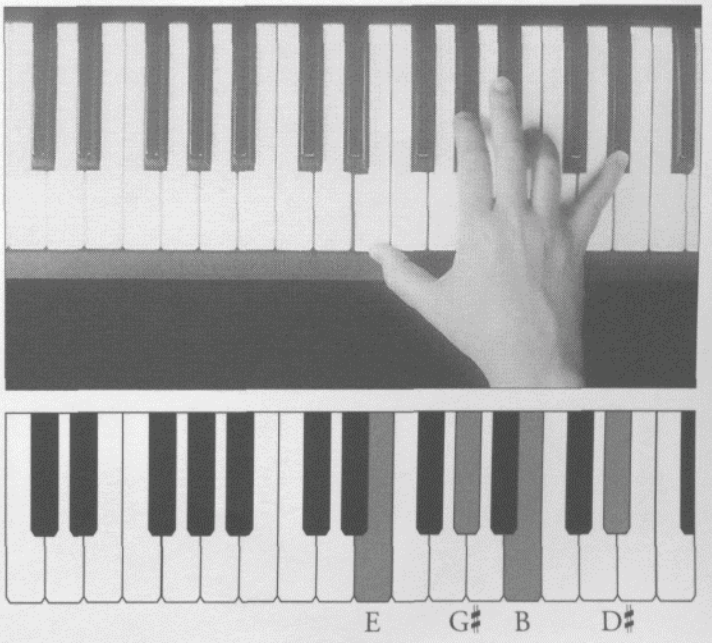
E°7 *second inversion*



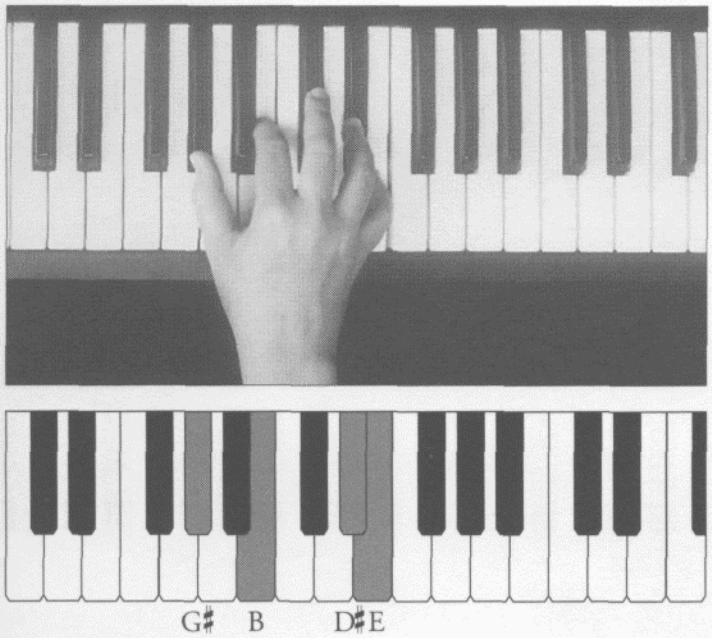
E°7 *third inversion*



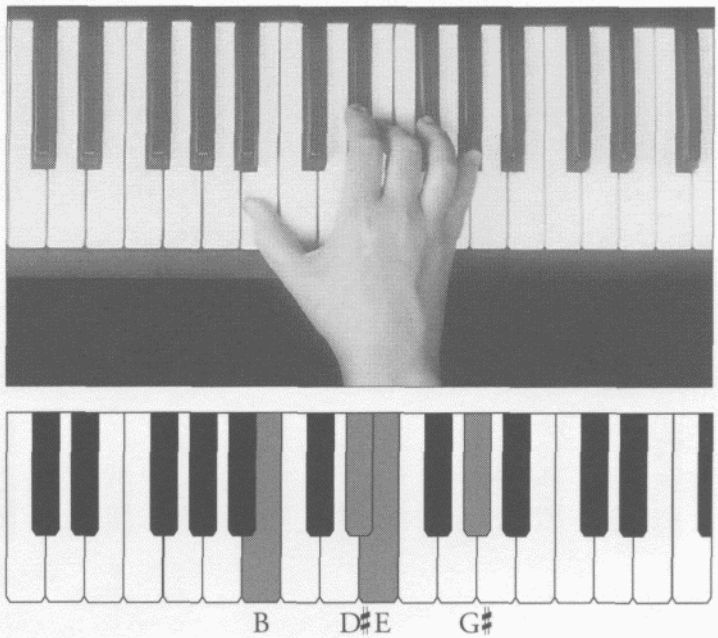
E major7



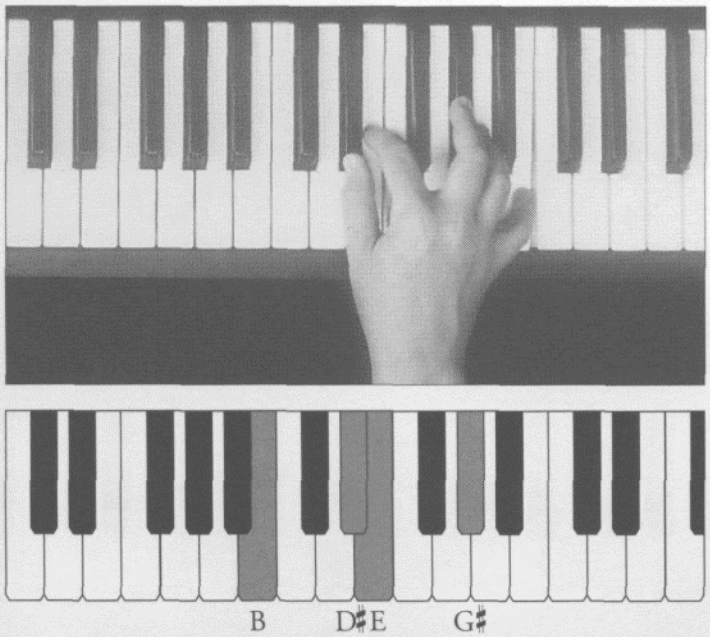
E major7 *first inversion*



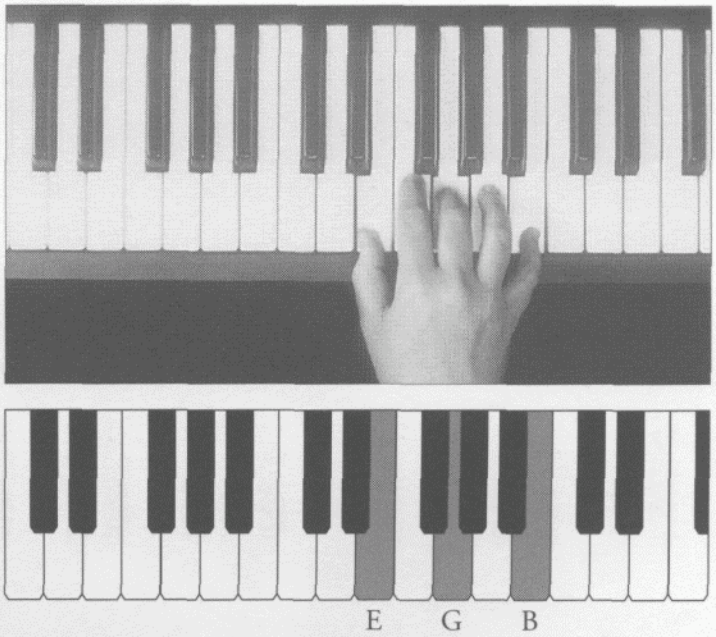
E major7 *second inversion*



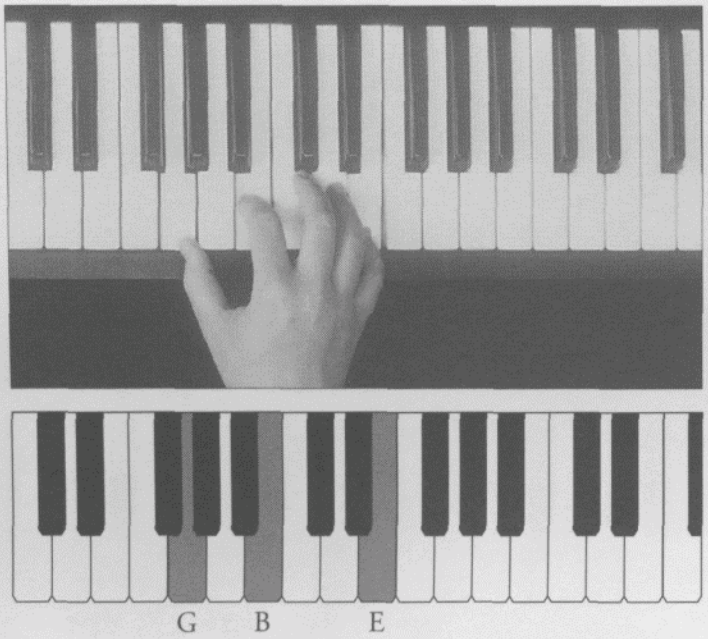
E major7 *third inversion*



E minor

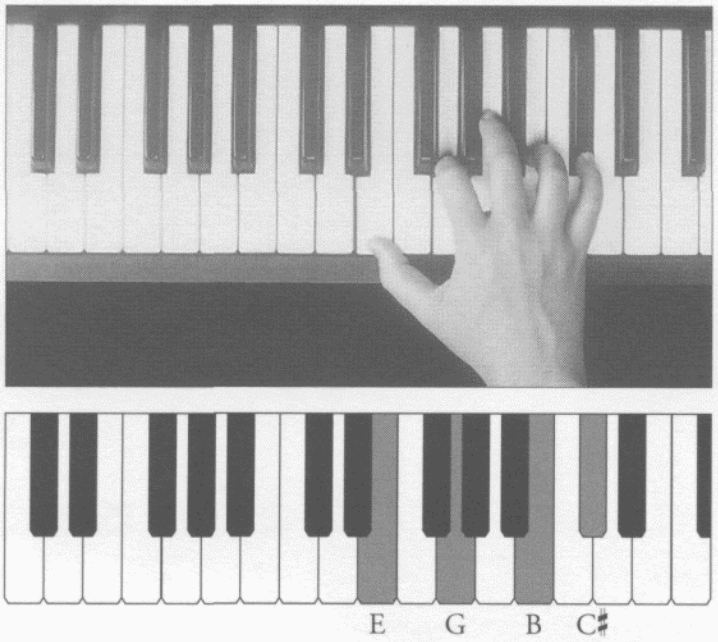


E minor *first inversion*

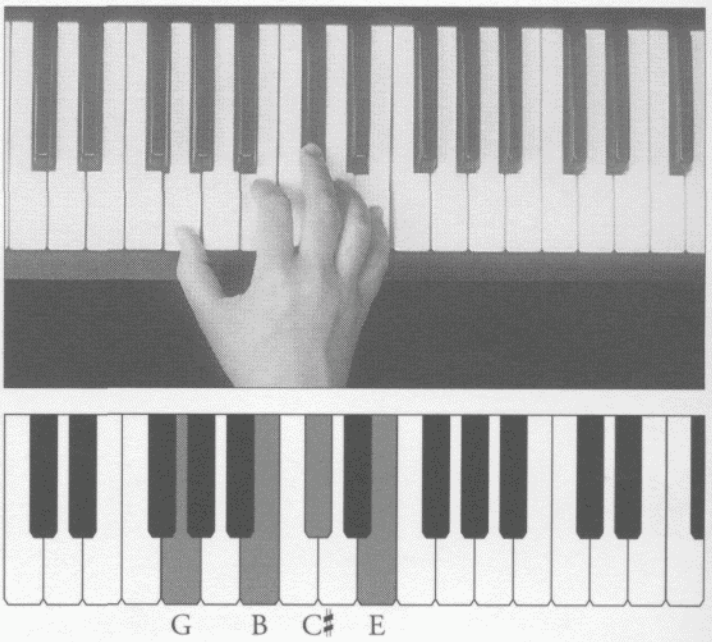


E minor *second inversion*

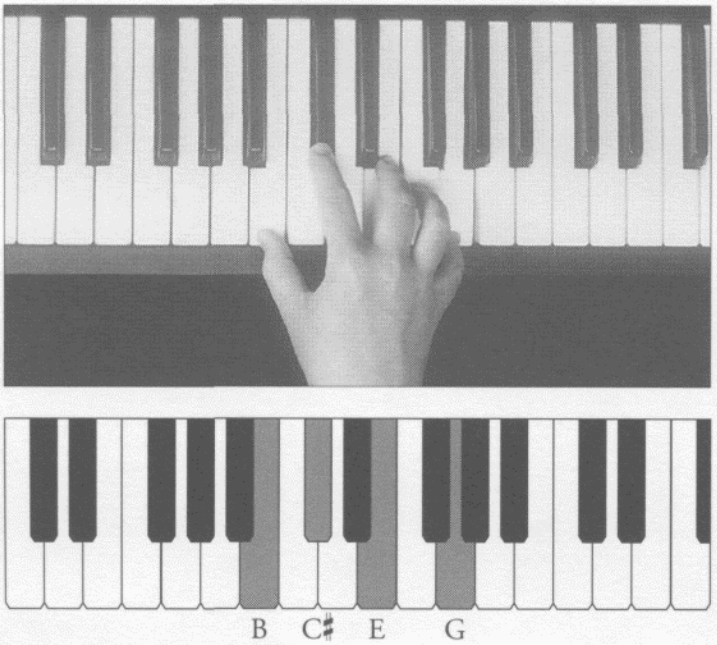
E minor6



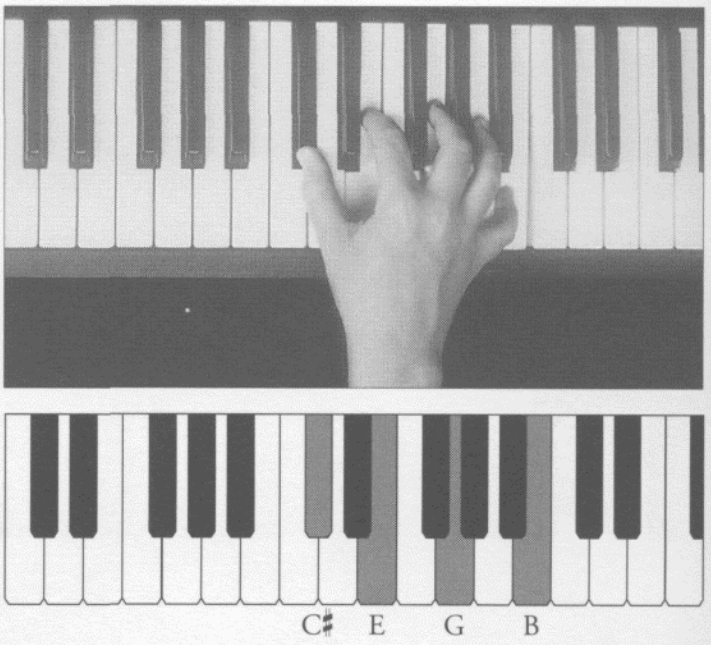
E minor6 *first inversion*



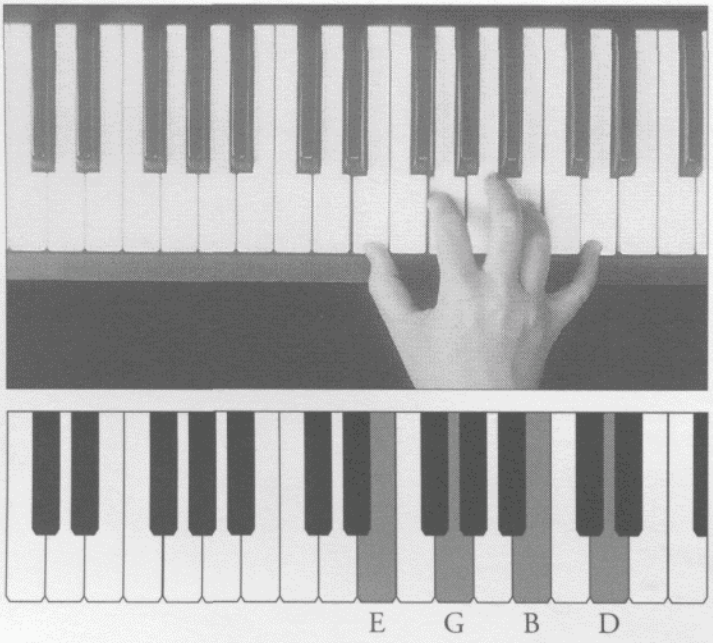
E minor6 *second inversion*



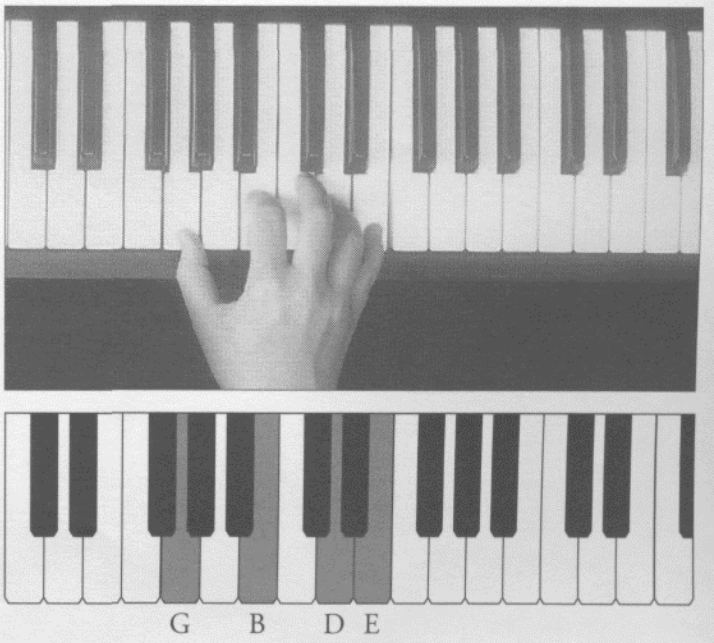
E minor6 *third inversion*



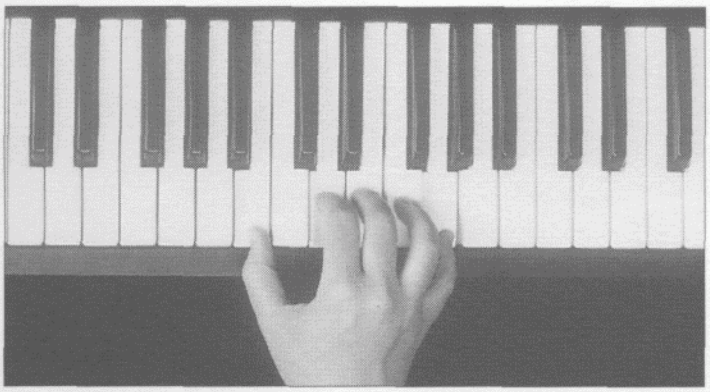
E minor7

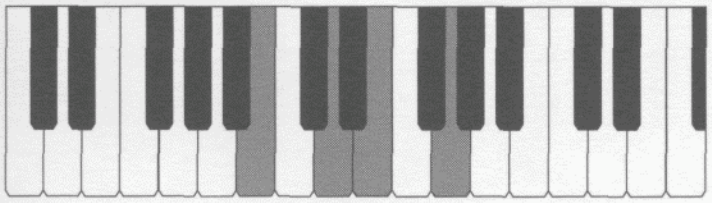


E minor7 *first inversion*



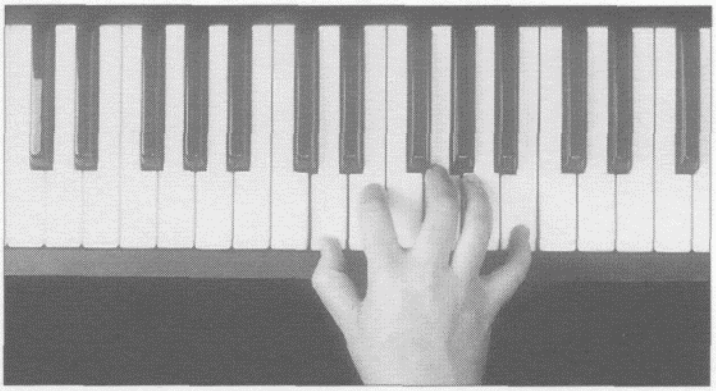
E minor7 *second inversion*

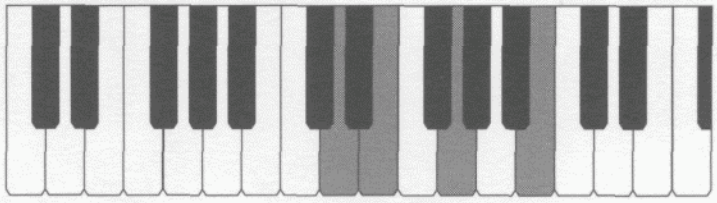




B D E G

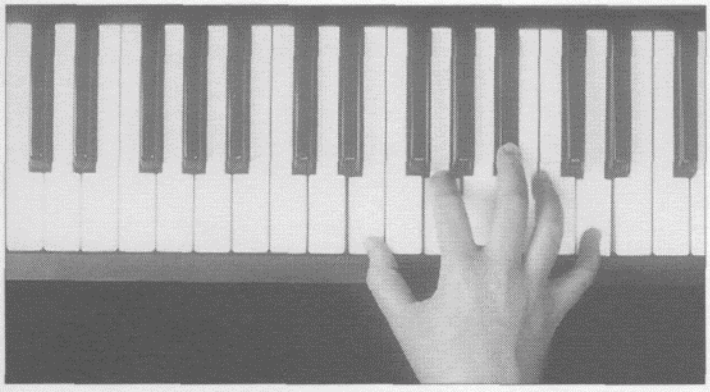
E minor7 *third inversion*





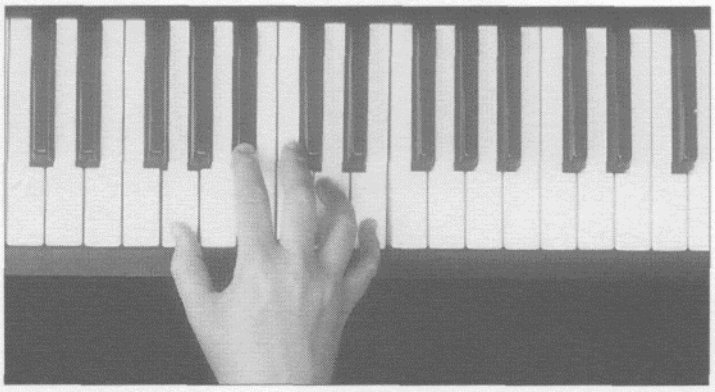
D E G B

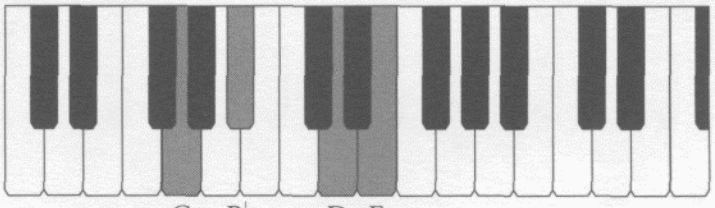
E minor7♭5



E G B♭ D

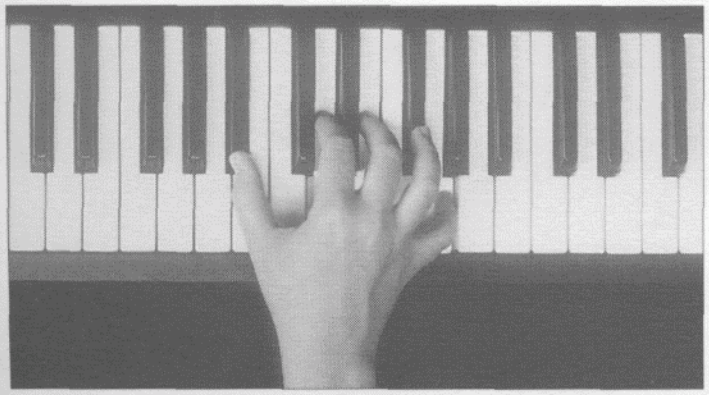
E minor7♭5 *first inversion*





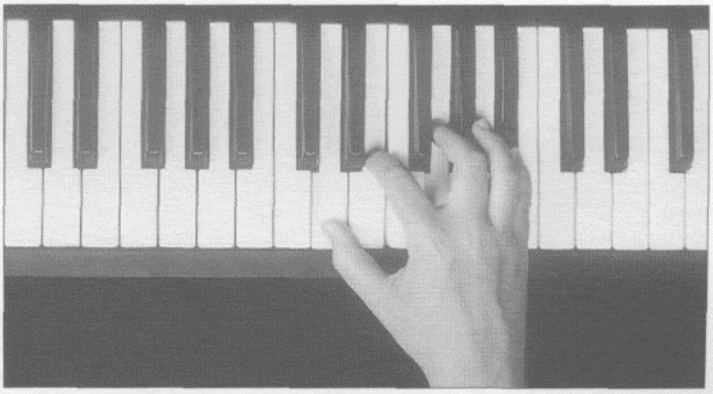
G B♭ D E

E minor7♭5 *second inversion*



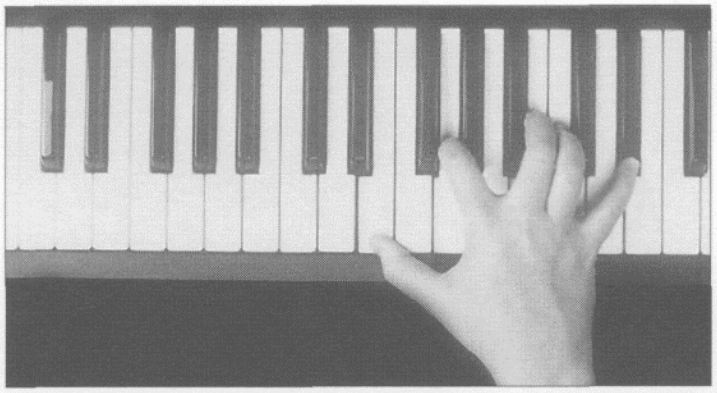
B♭ D E G

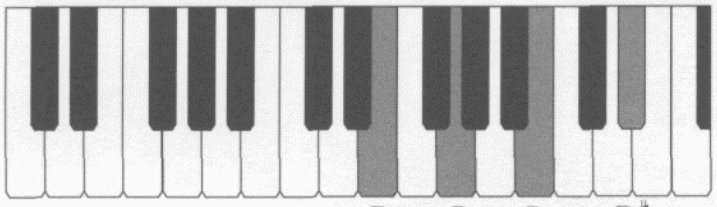
E minor7♭5 *third inversion*



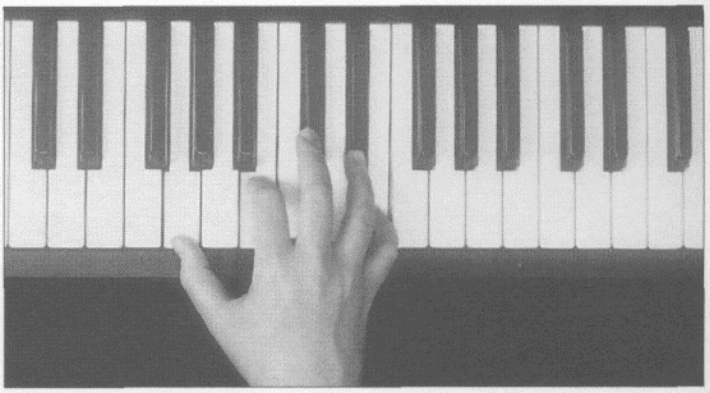
D E G B♭

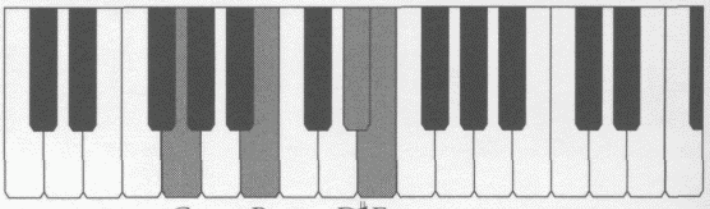
E minor (major7)



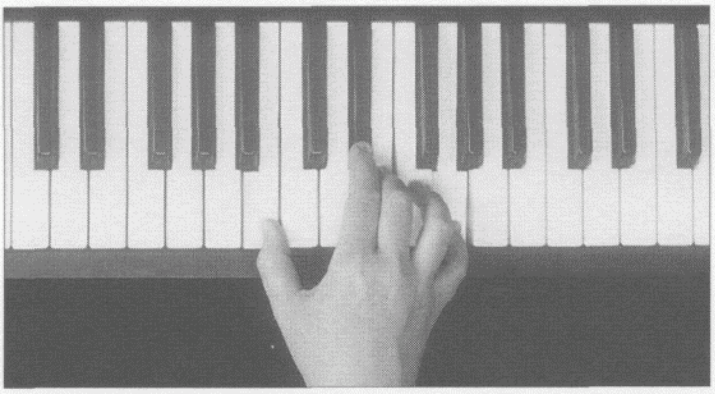


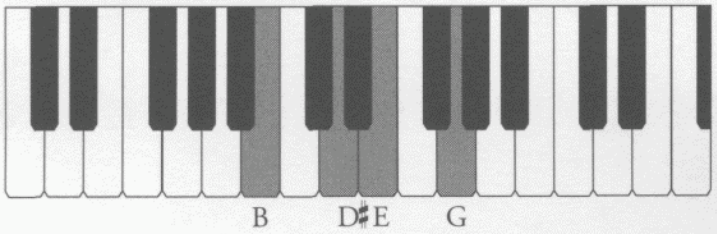
E minor (major7) *first inversion*



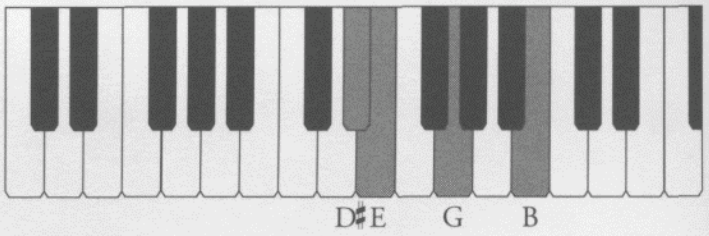


E minor (major7) *second inversion*



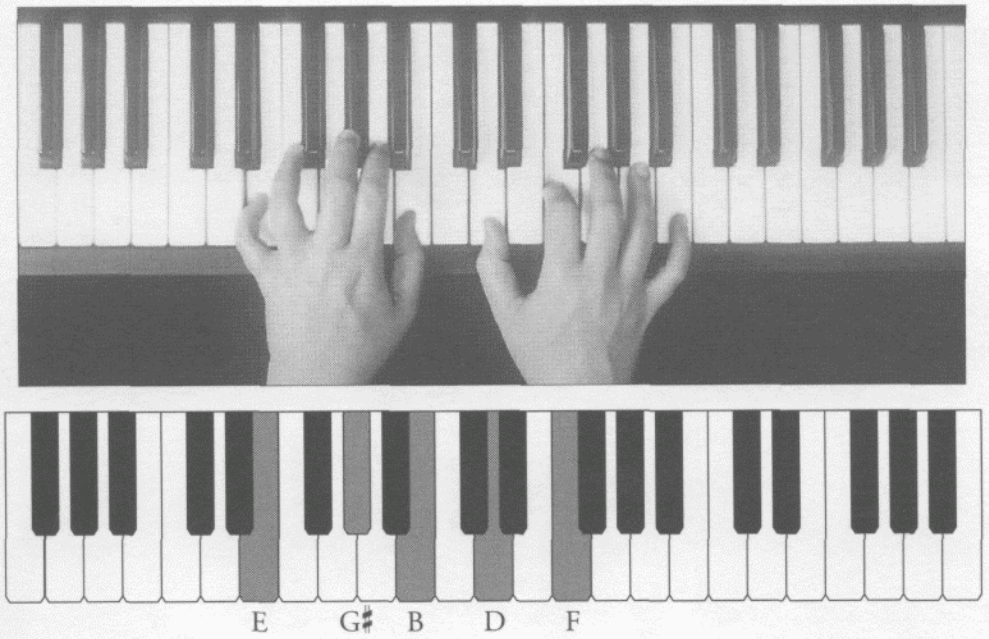


E minor (major7) *third inversion*

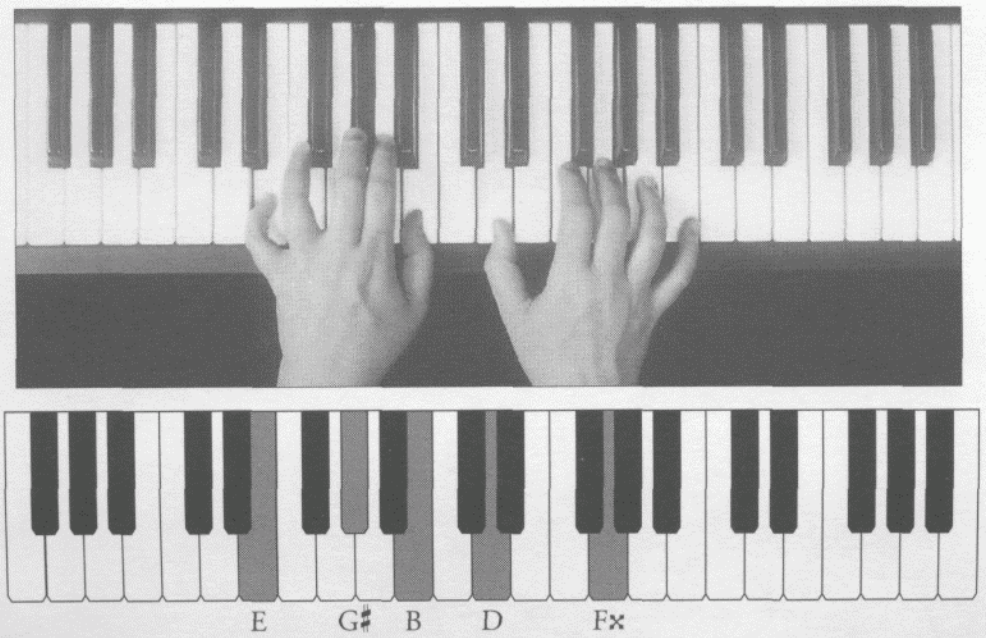


E chords
using both hands

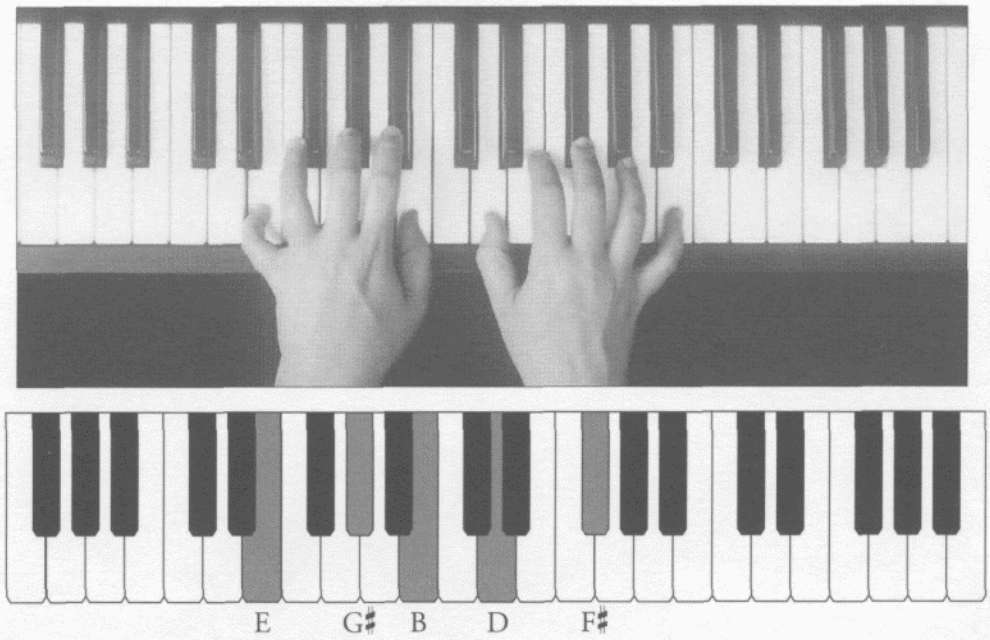
E7♭9



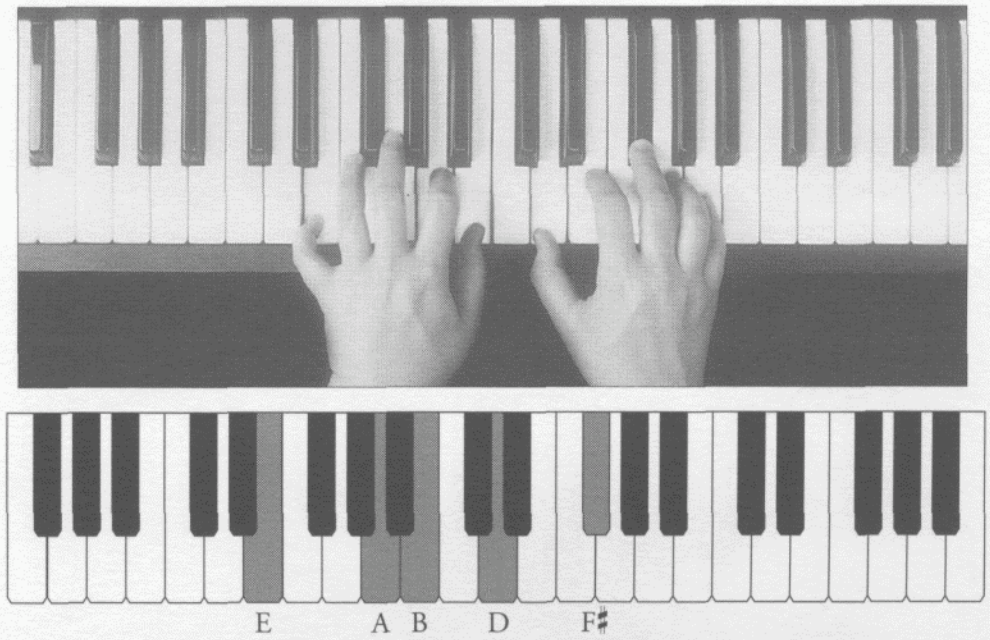
E7♯9



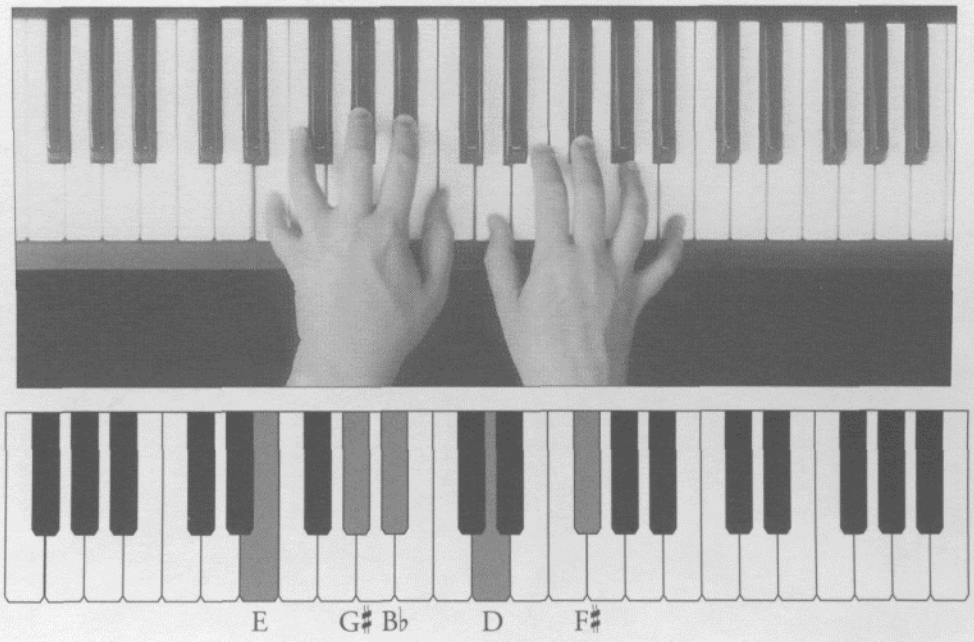
E9



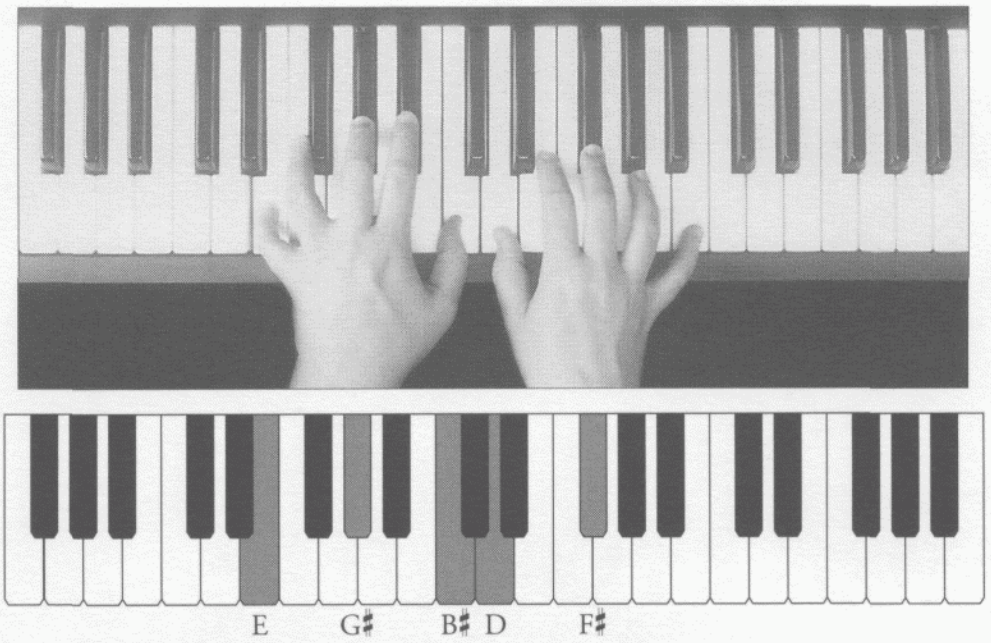
E9sus4



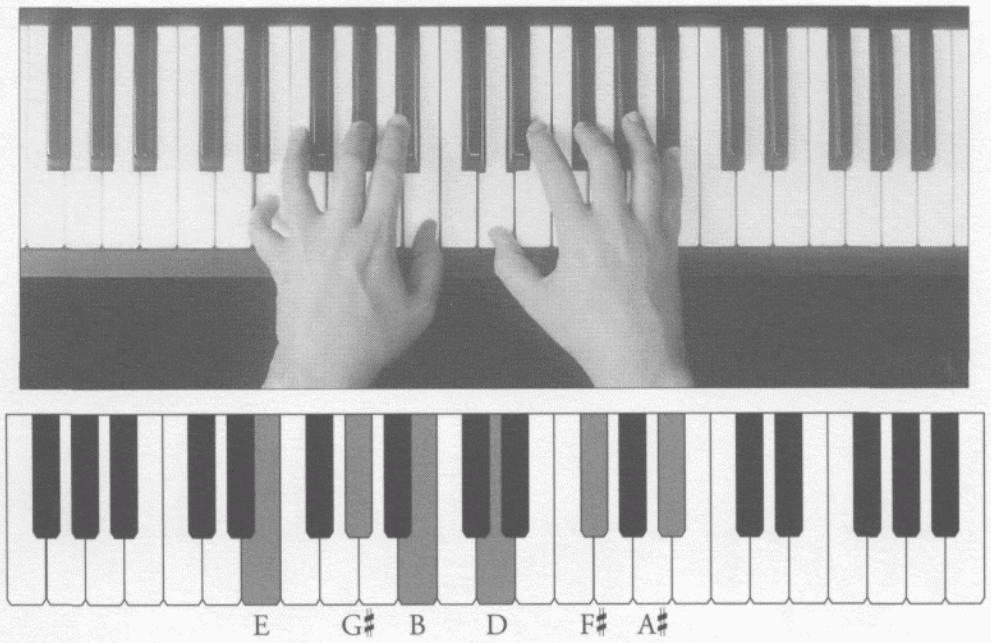
E9♭5



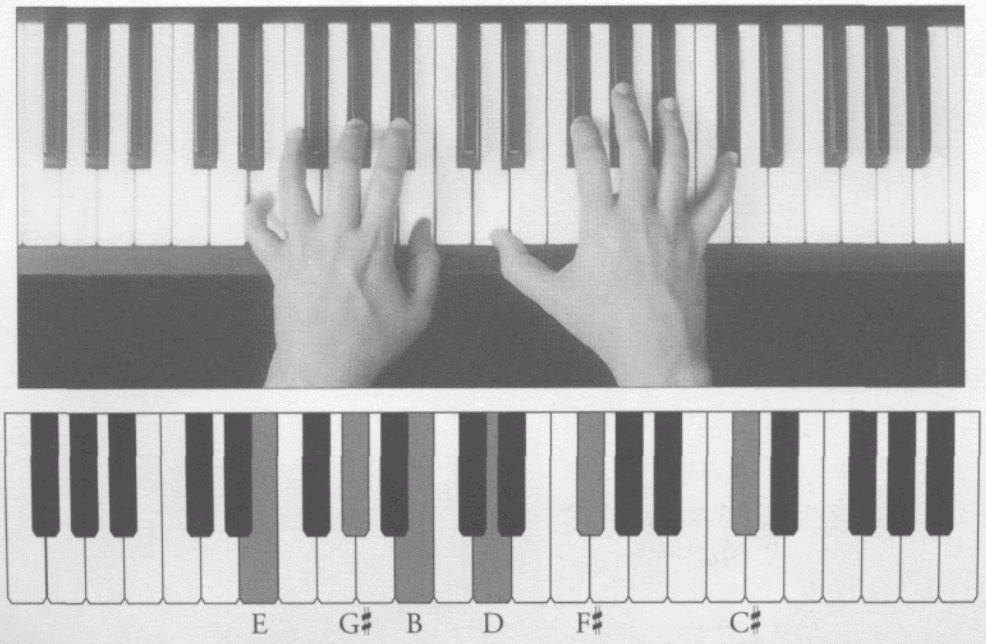
E9♯5



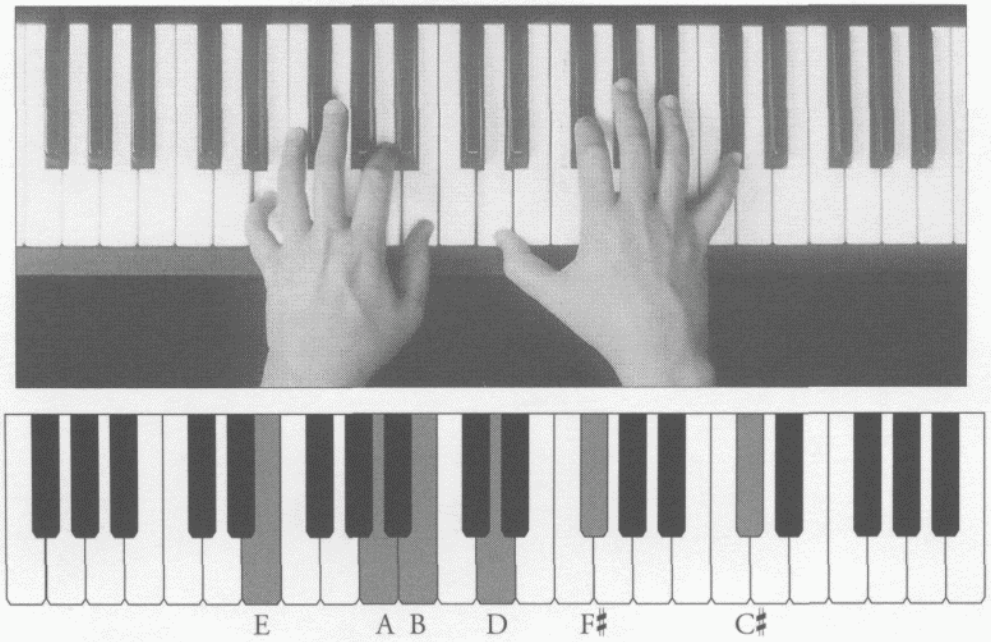
E9♯11



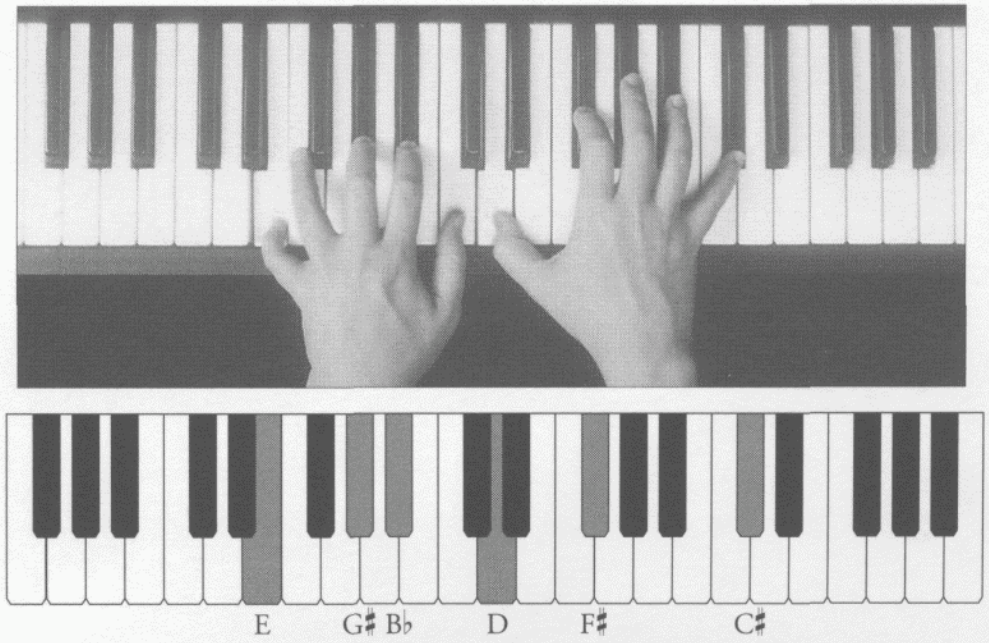
E13



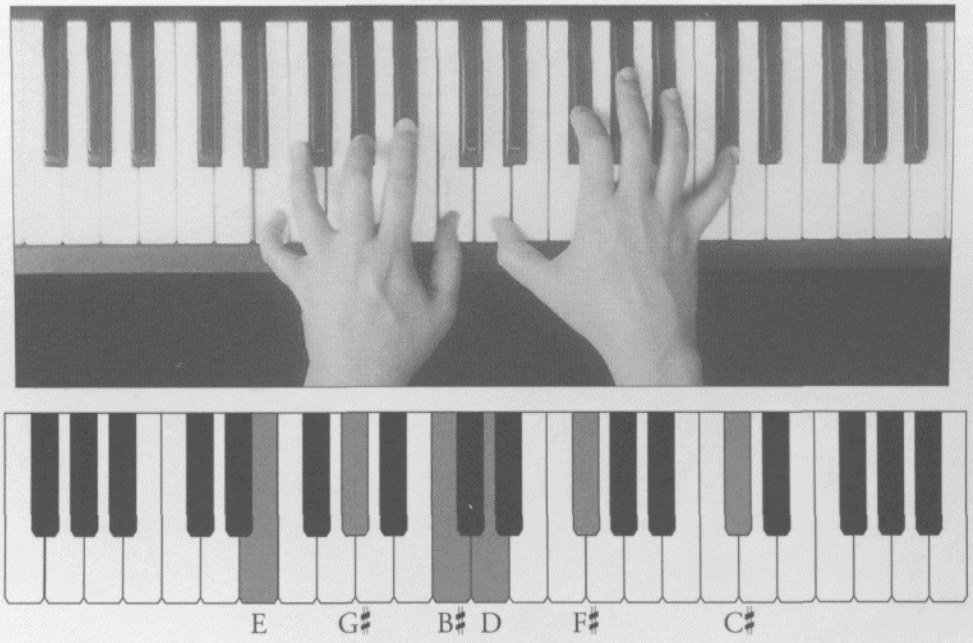
E13sus4



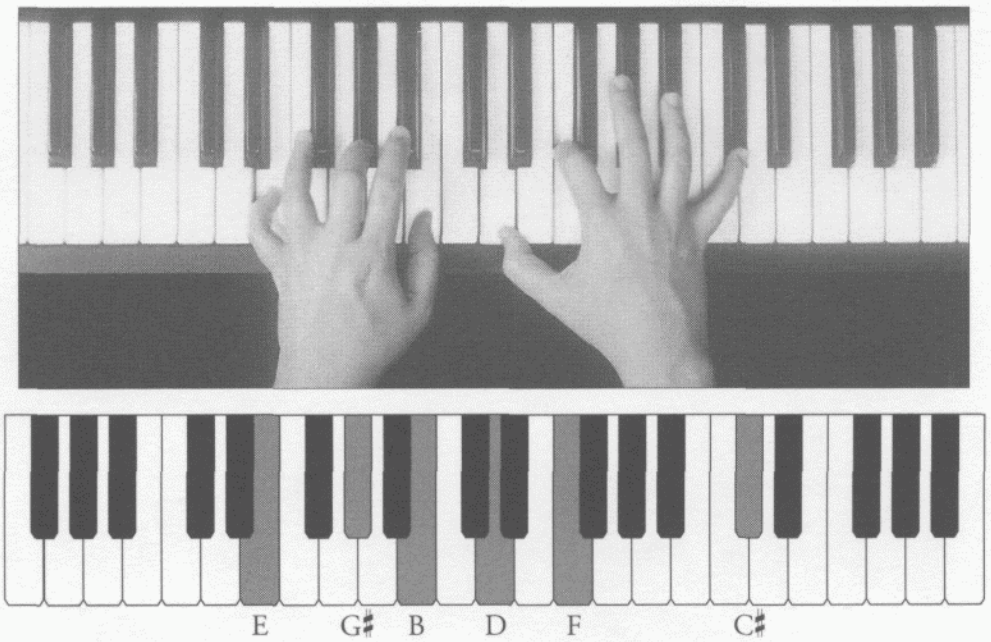
E13♭5



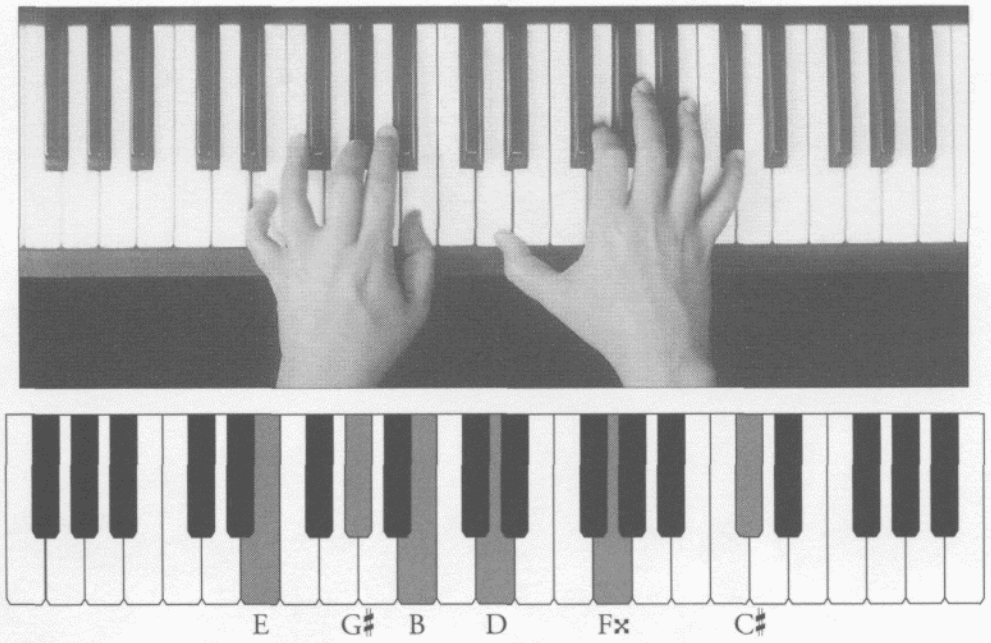
E13♯5



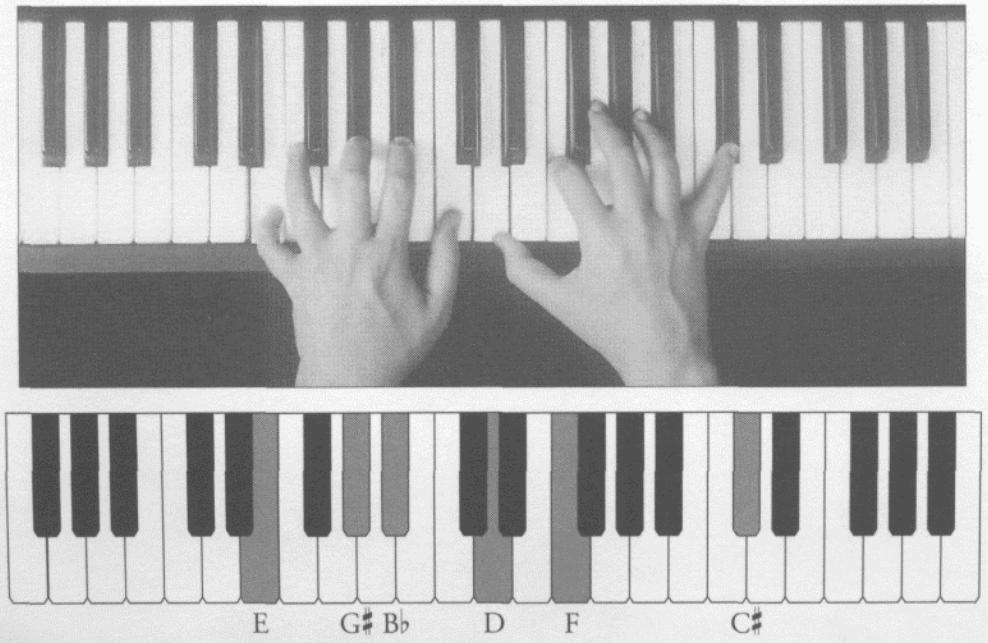
E13♭9



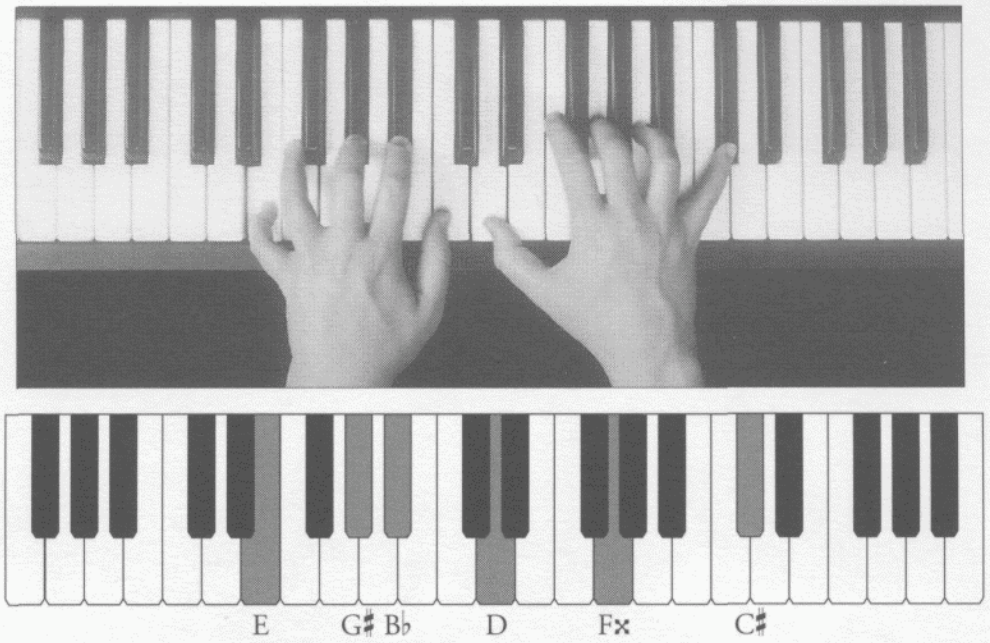
E13♯9



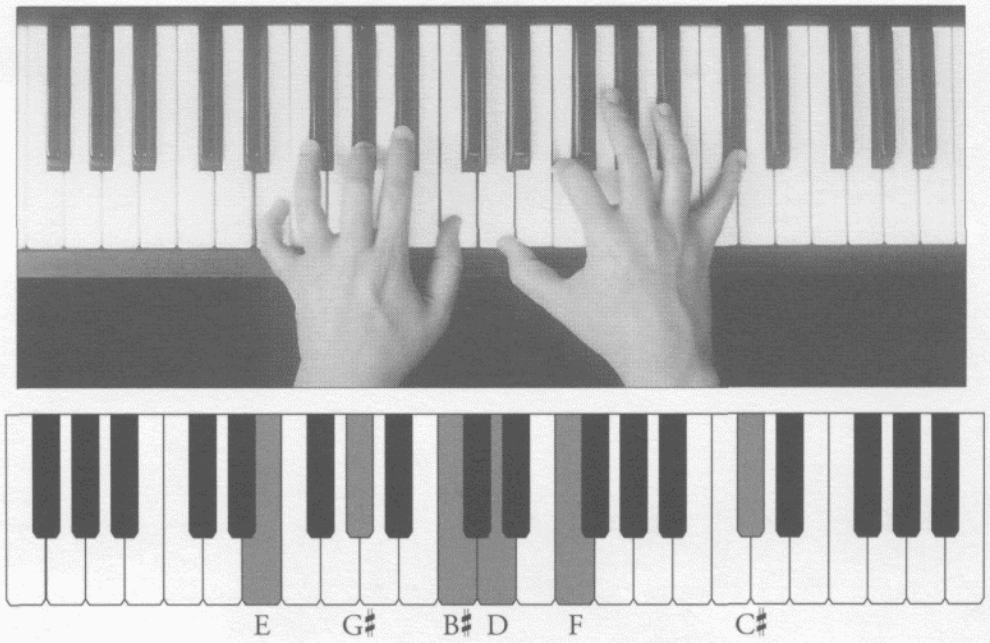
E13♭5♭9



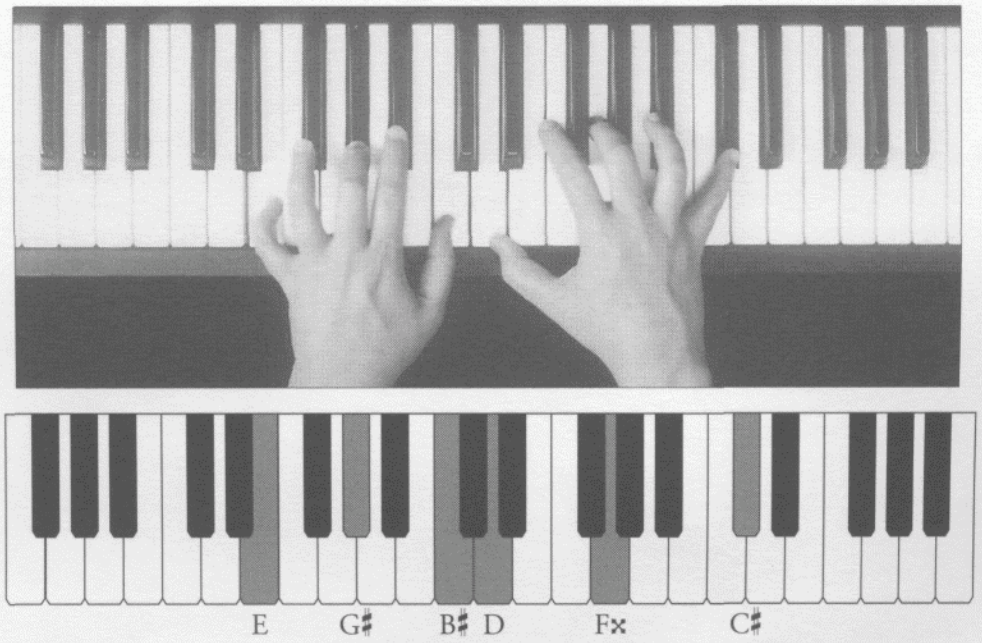
E13♭5♯9



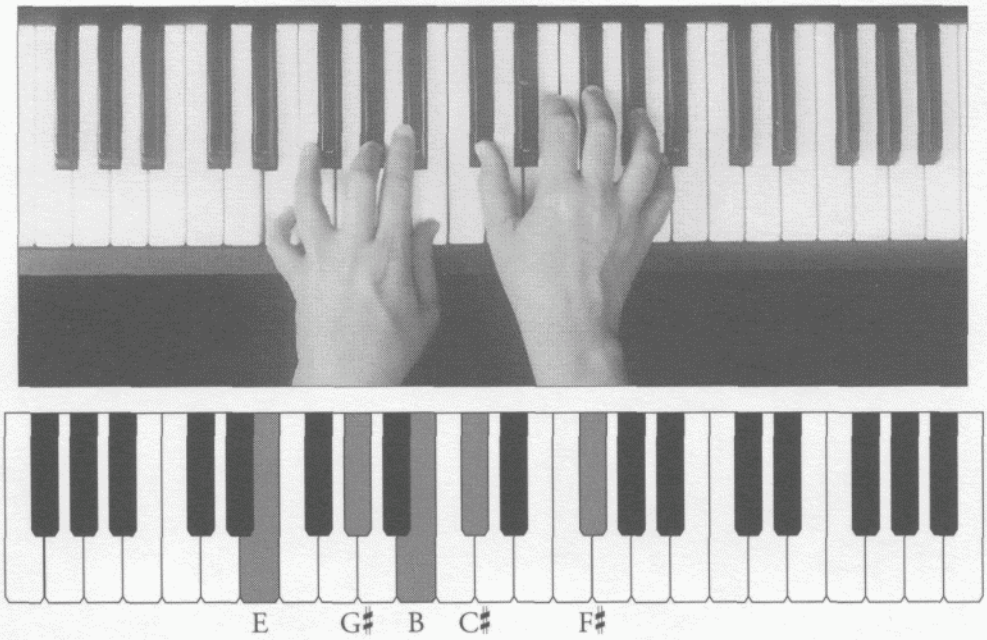
E13♯5♭9



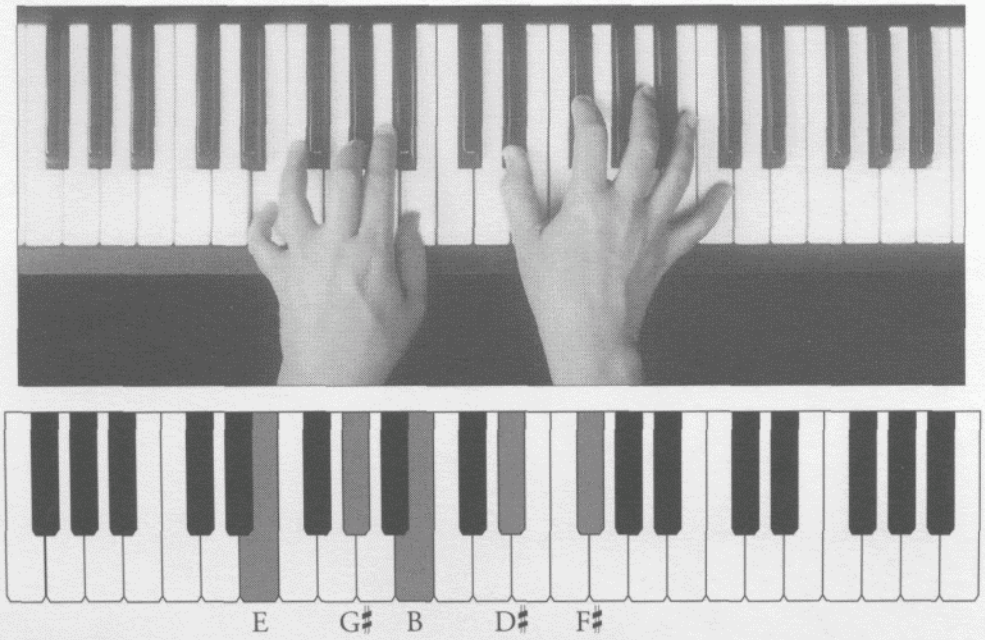
E13♯5♯9



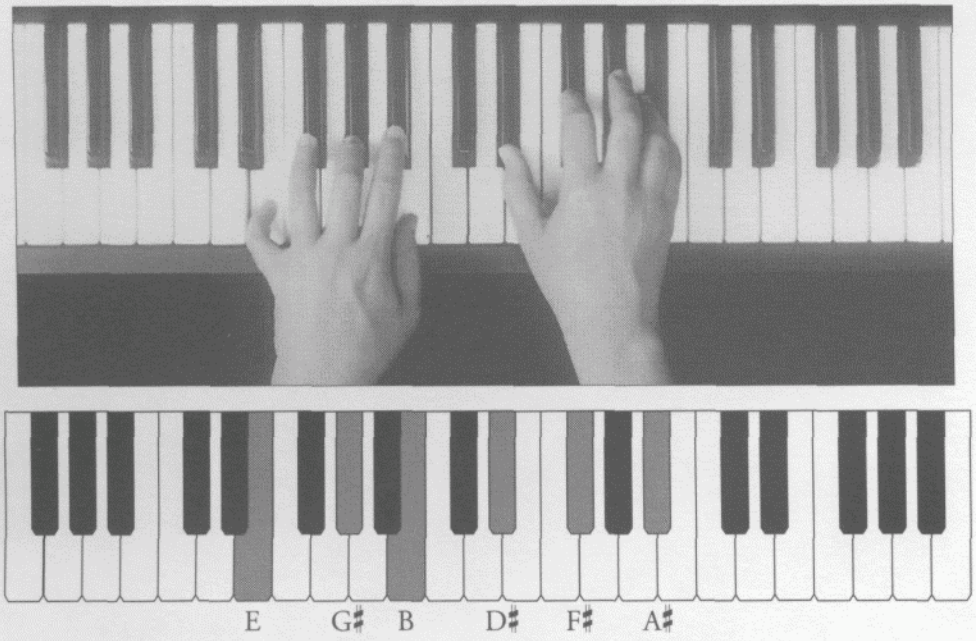
E 6/9



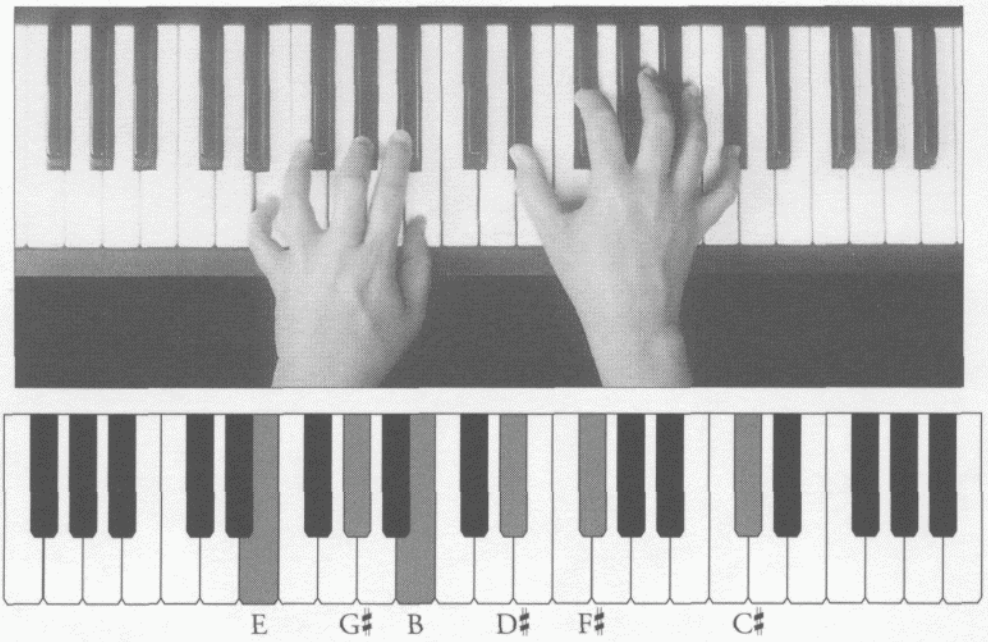
E major9



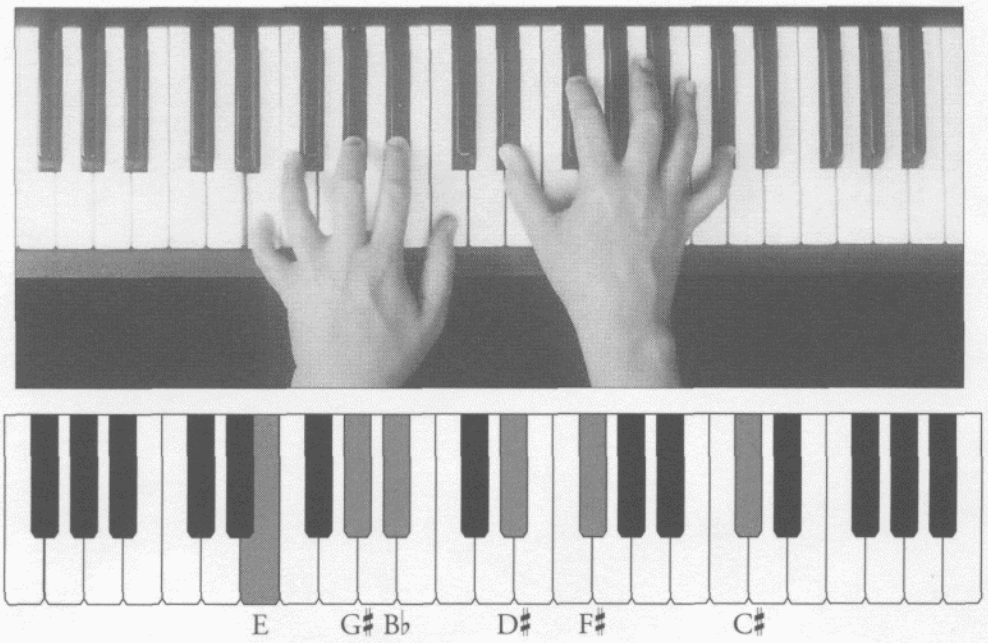
E major9♯11



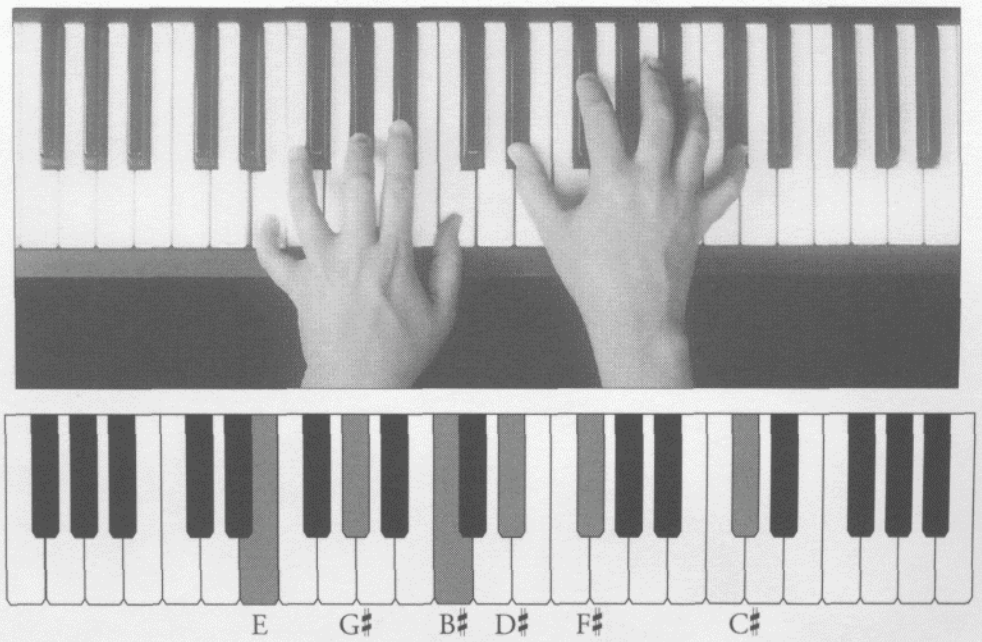
E major13



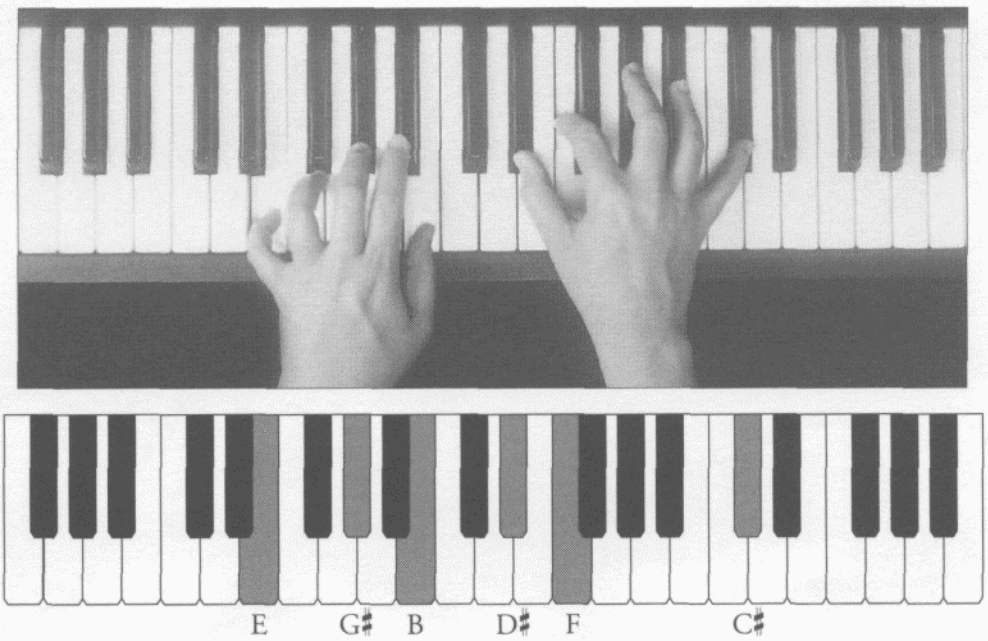
E major13♭5



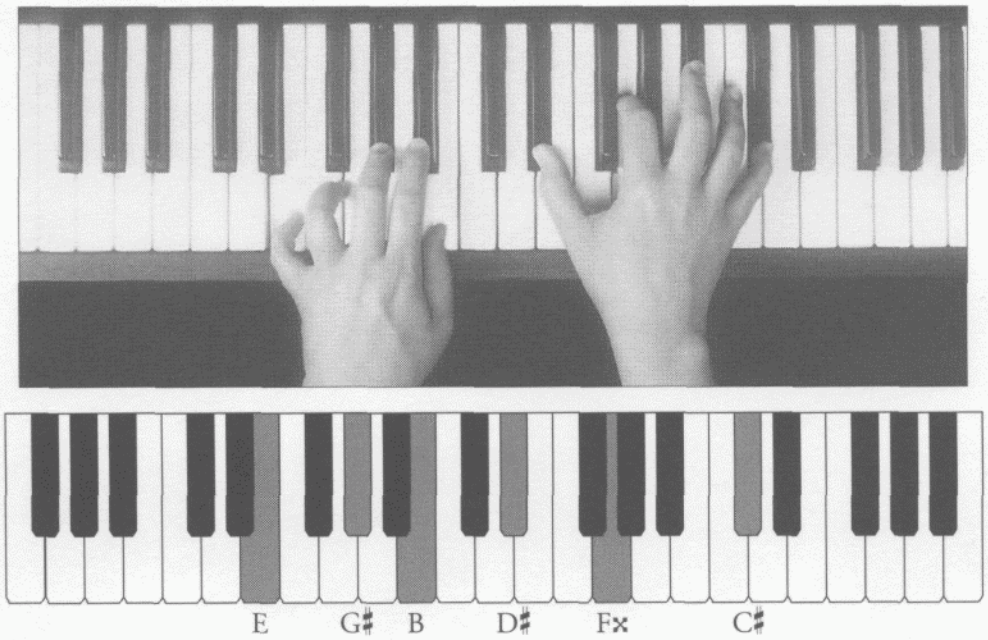
E major13♯5



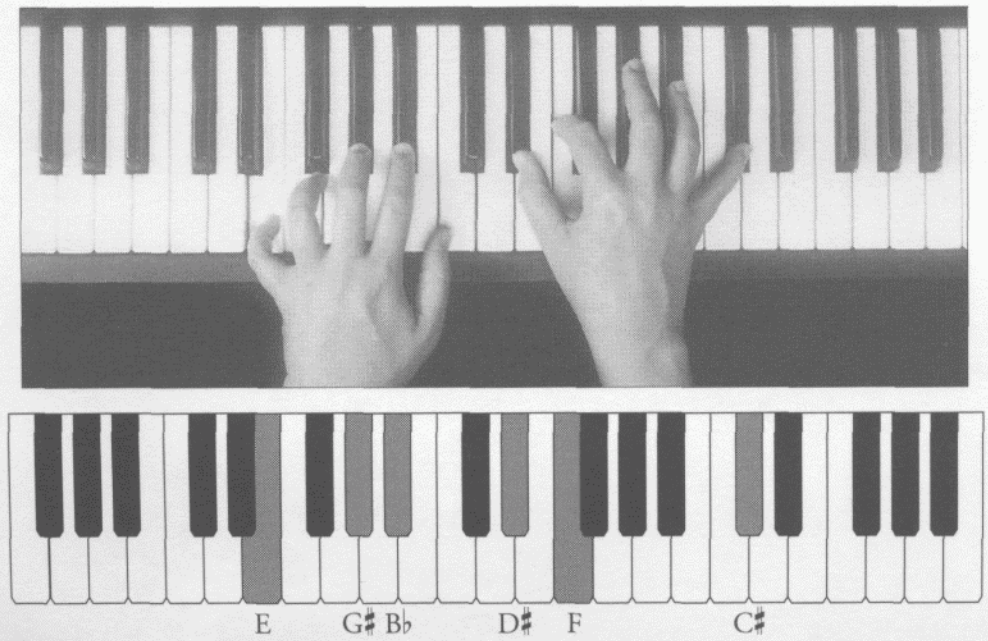
E major13♭9



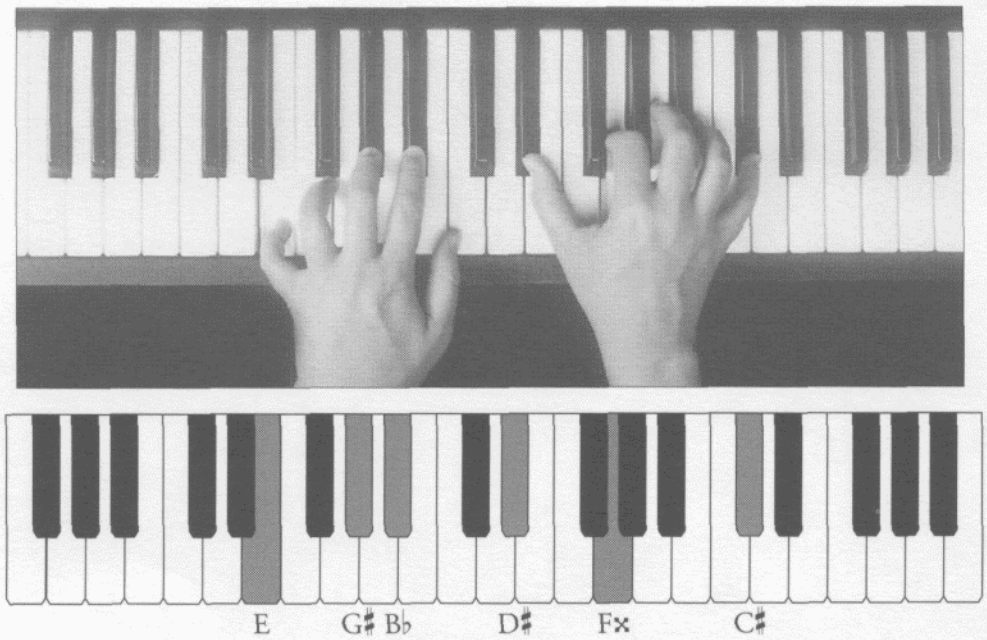
E major13♯9



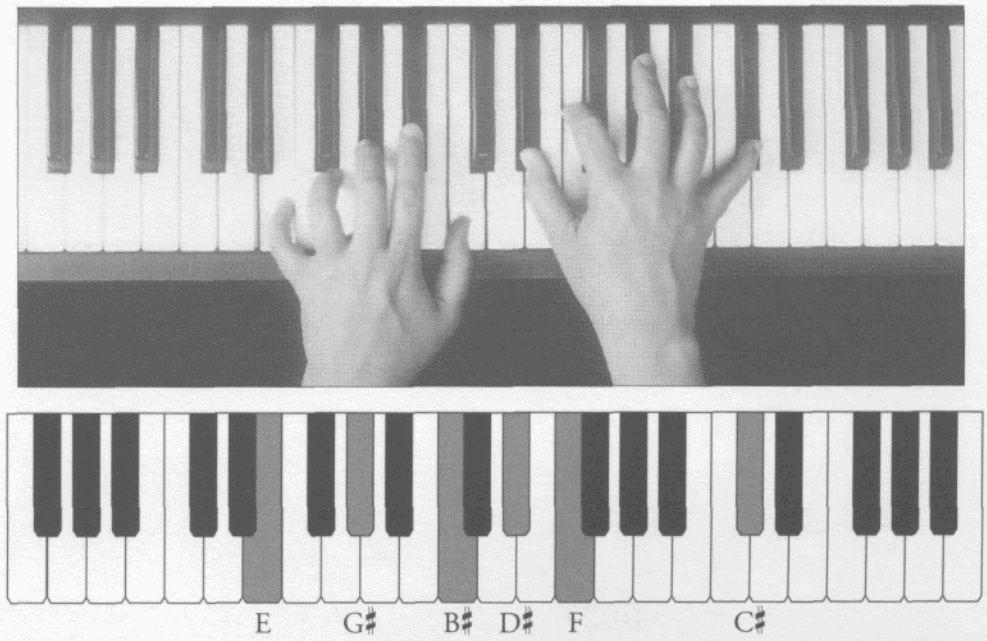
E major13♭5♭9



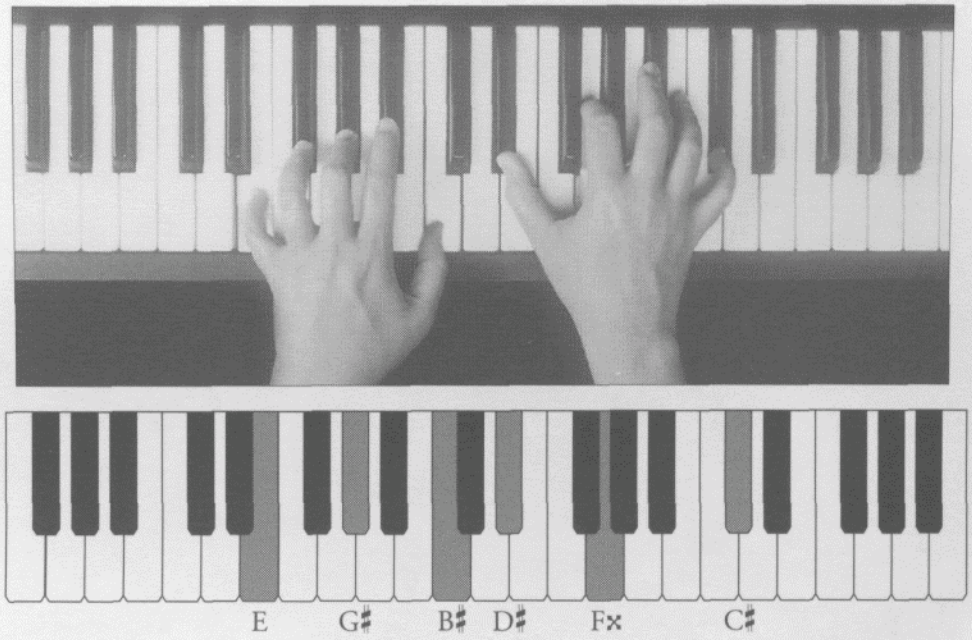
E major13♭5♯9



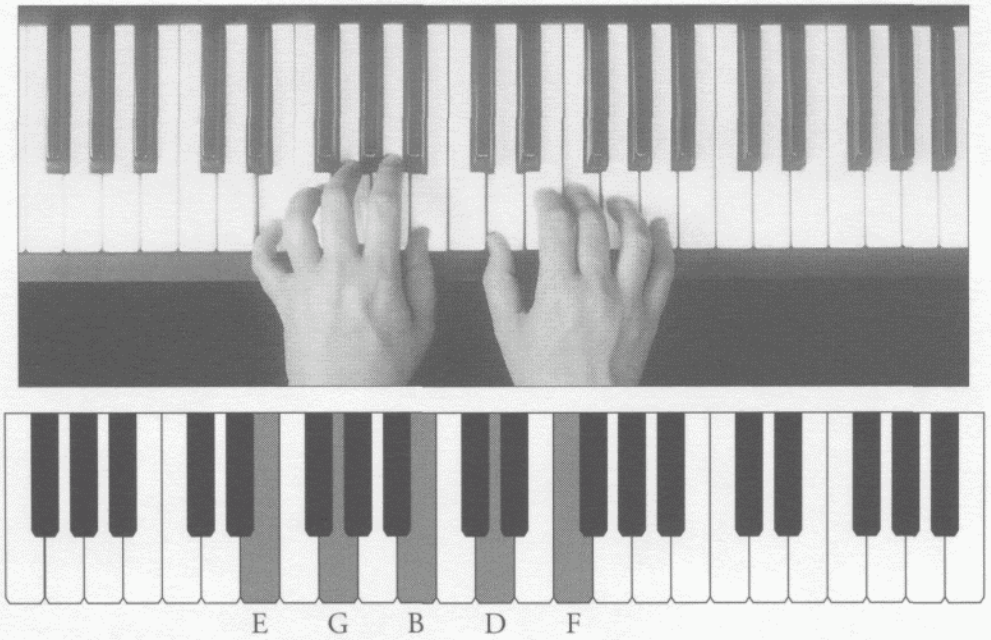
E major13♯5♭9



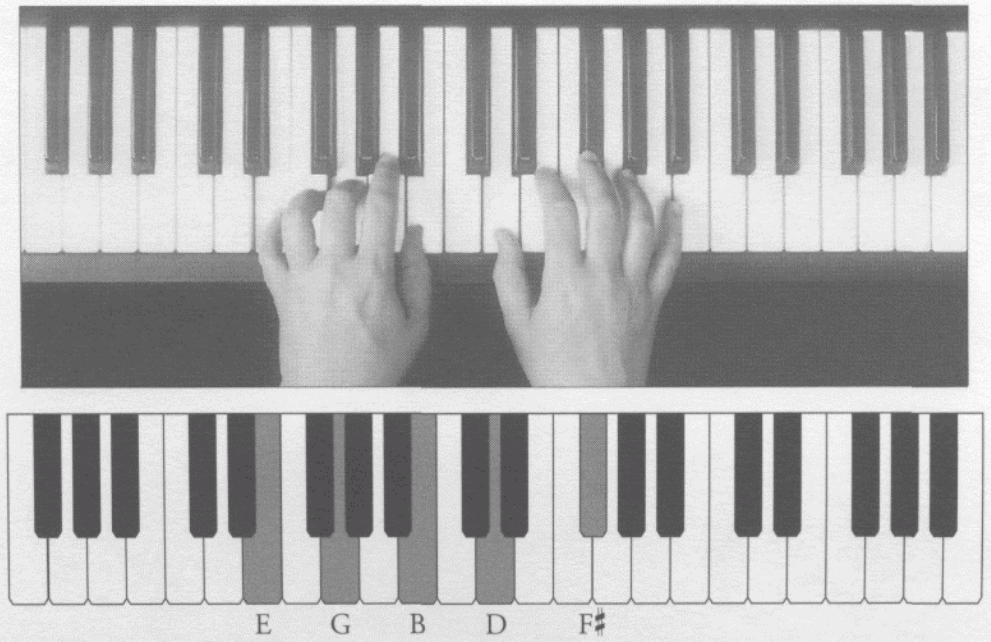
E major13♯5♯9



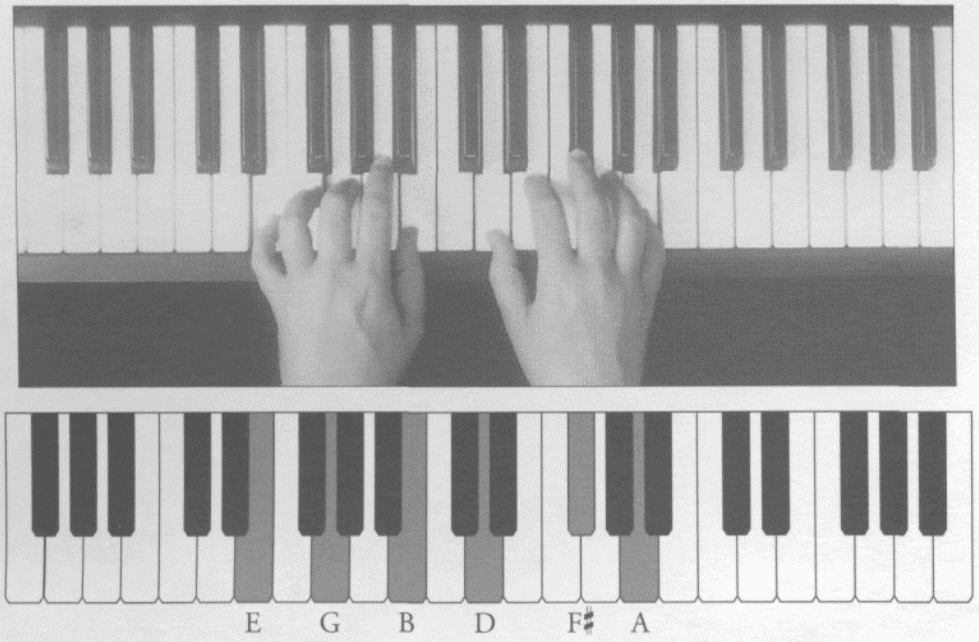
E minor7♭9



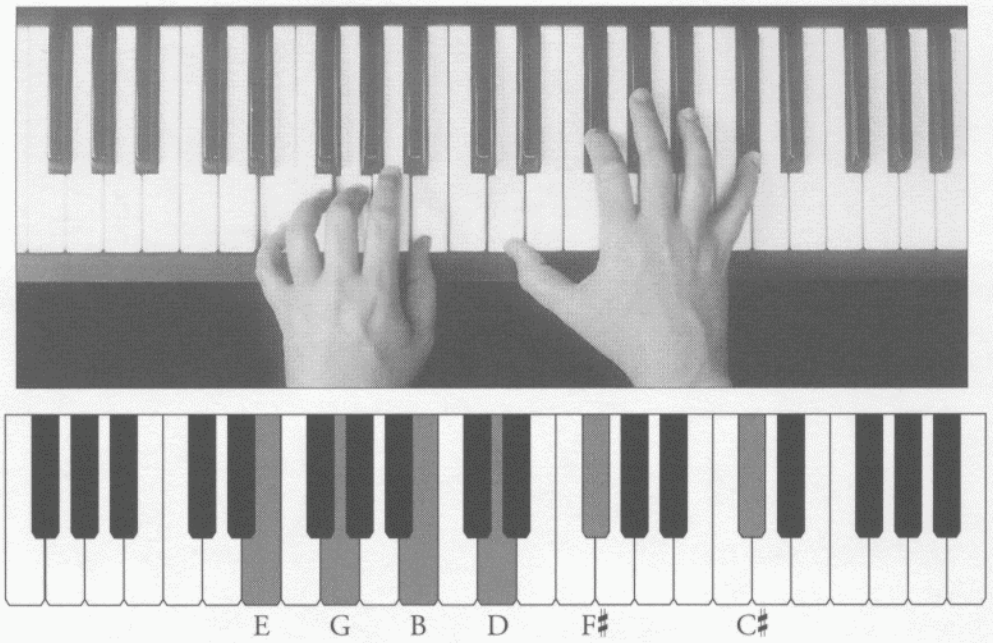
E minor9



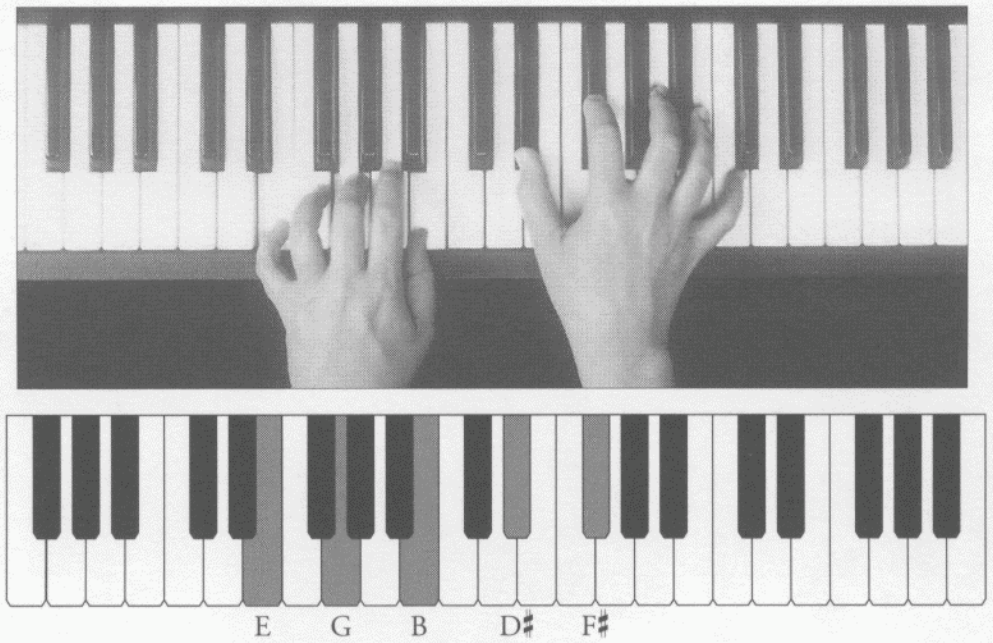
E minor11



E minor13

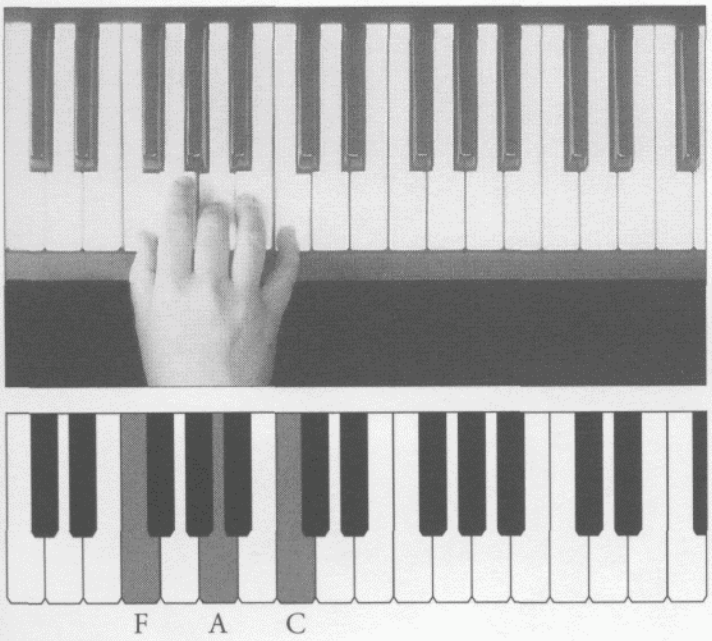


E minor9 (major7)

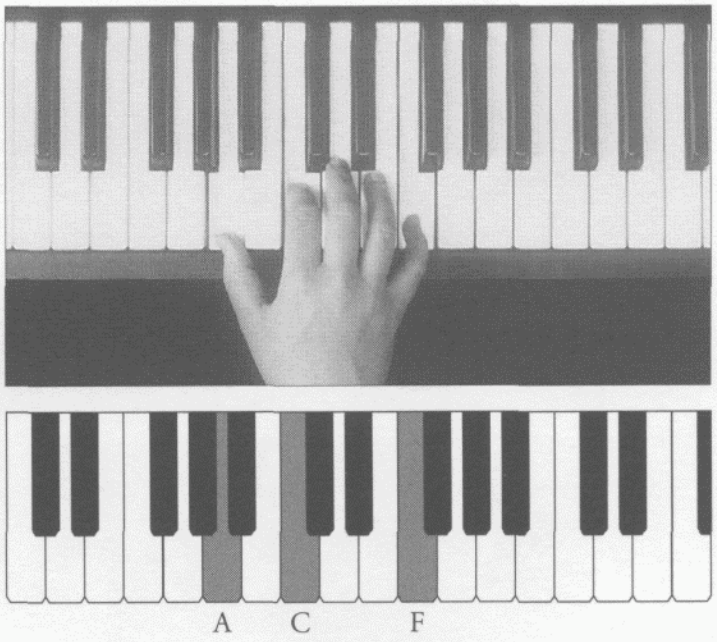


F chords

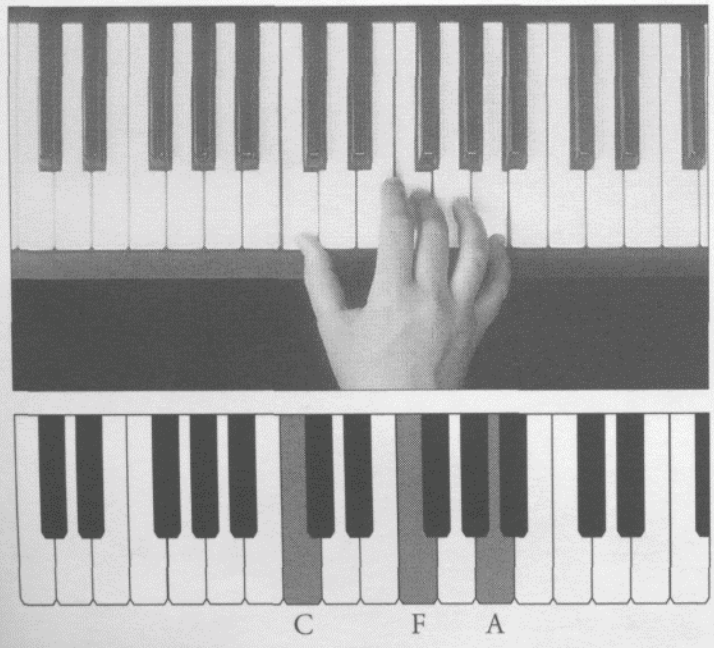
F major



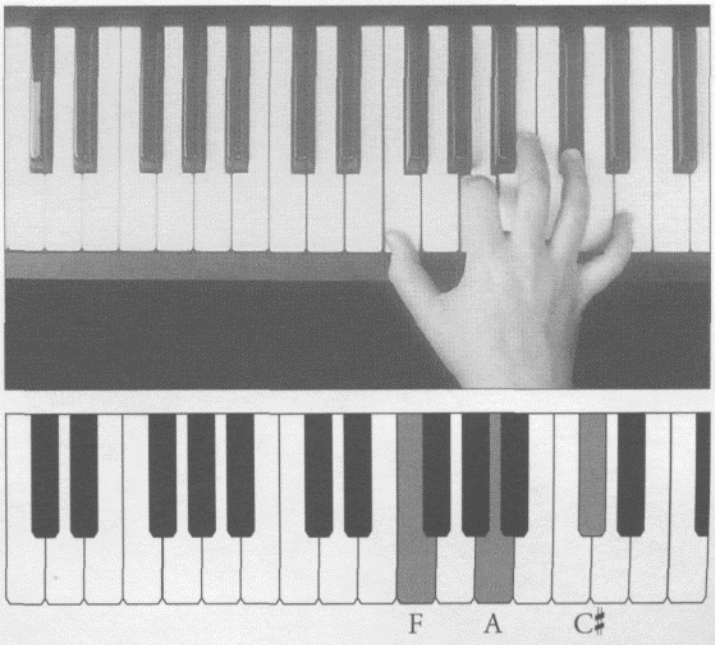
F/A *first inversion*



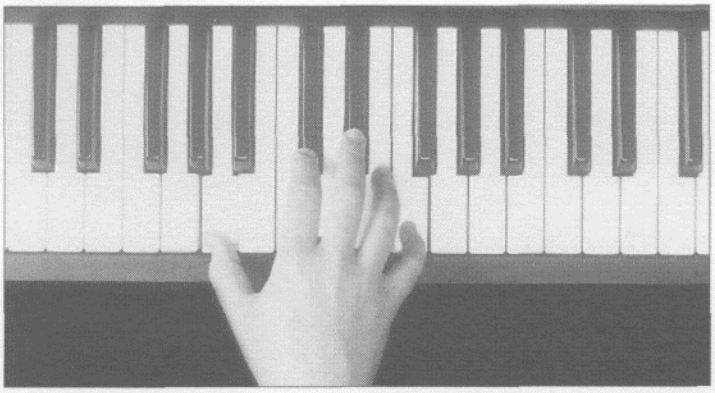
F/C *second inversion*

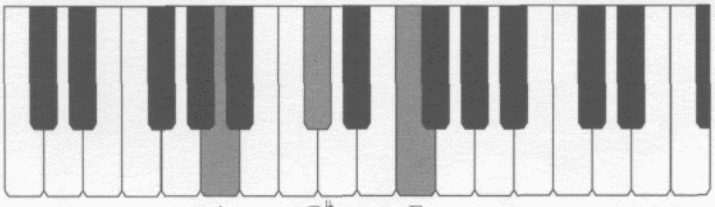


F augmented

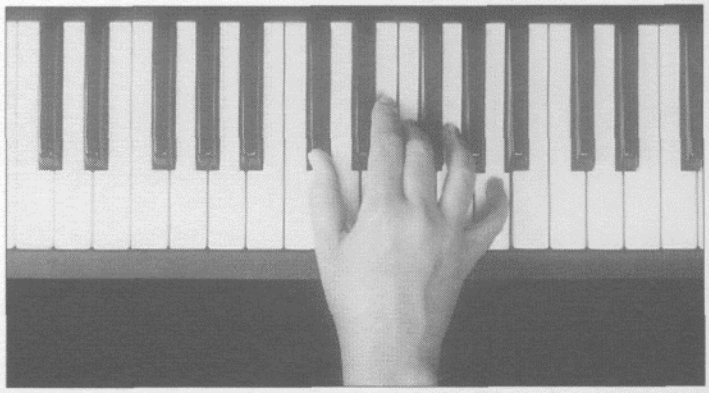


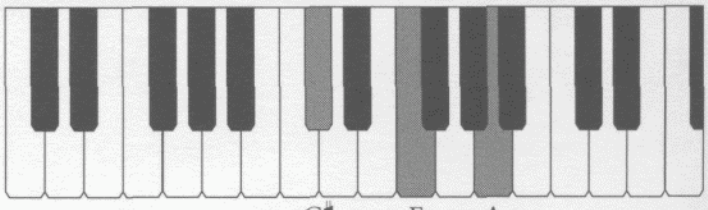
F augmented *first inversion*



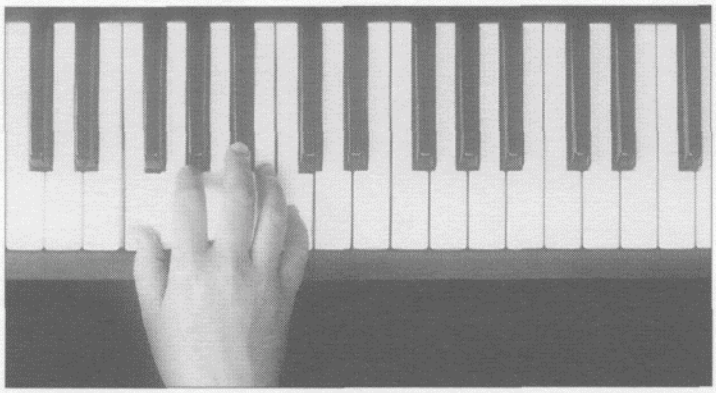


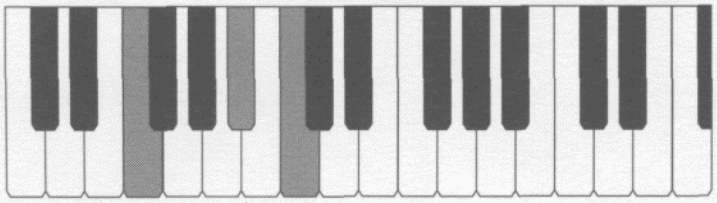
F augmented *second inversion*



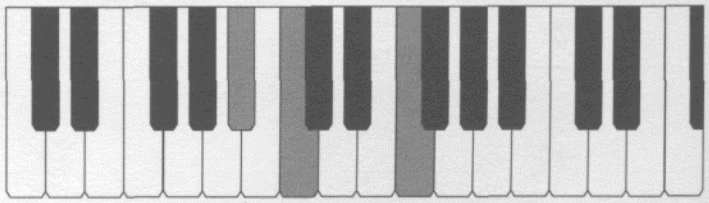


Fsus4

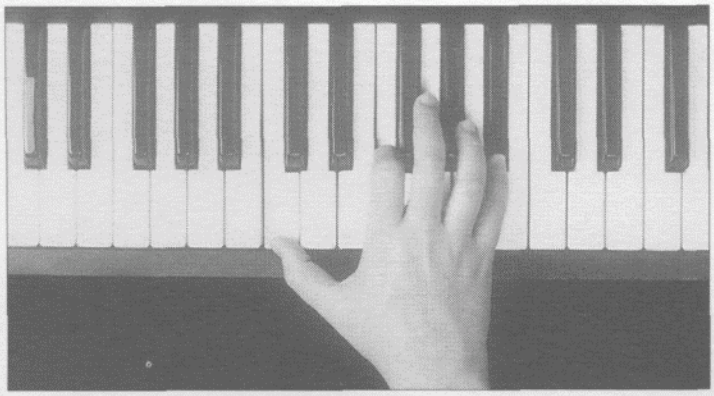


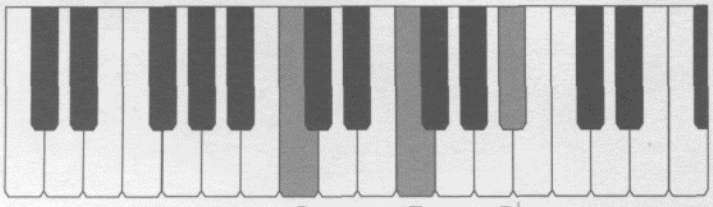


Fsus4 *first inversion*

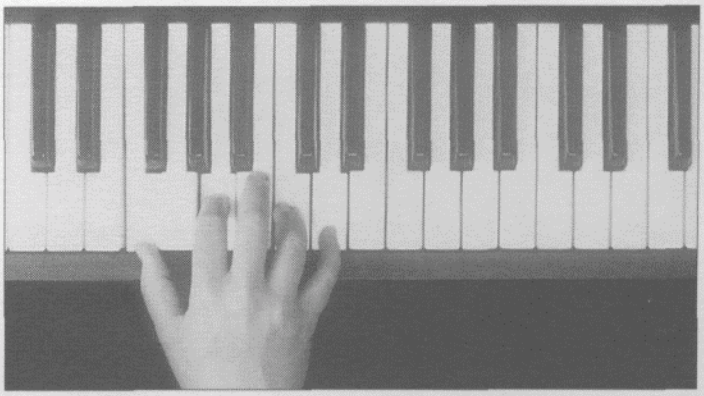


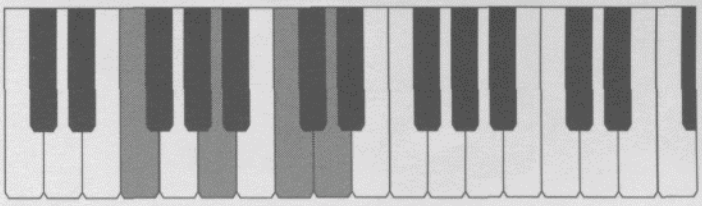
Fsus4 *second inversion*



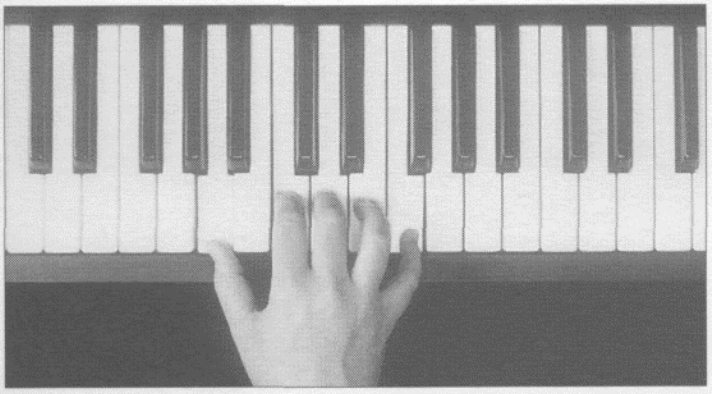


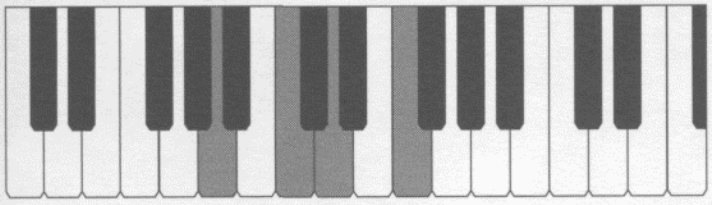
F6



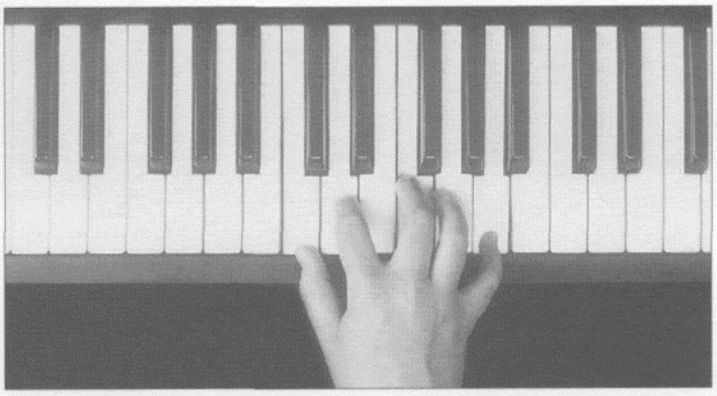


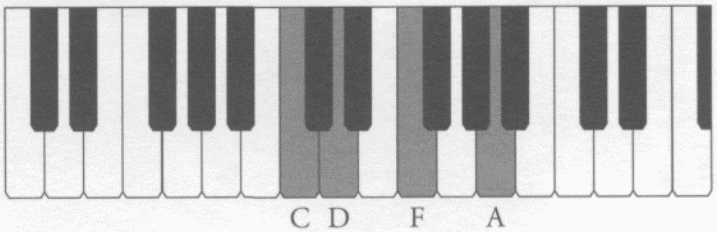
F6 *first inversion*



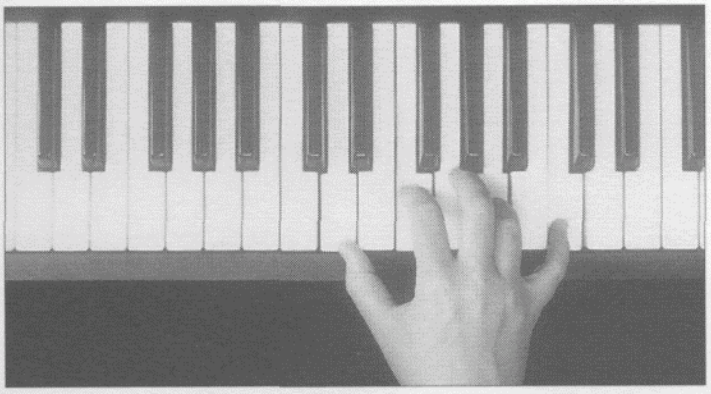


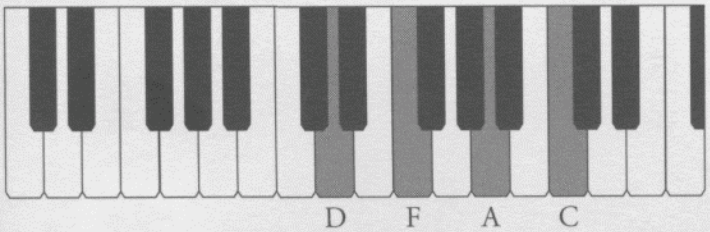
F6 *second inversion*



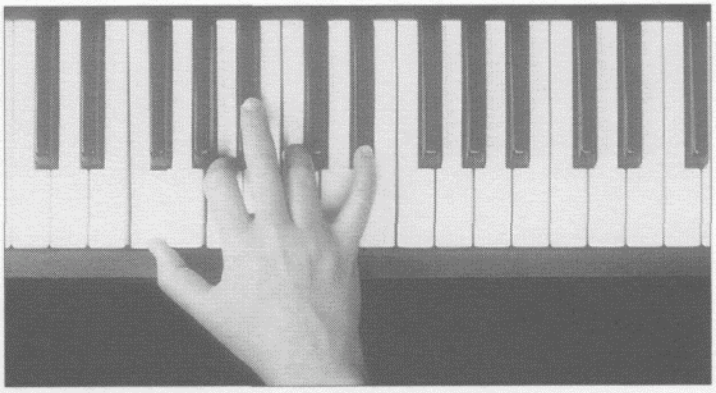


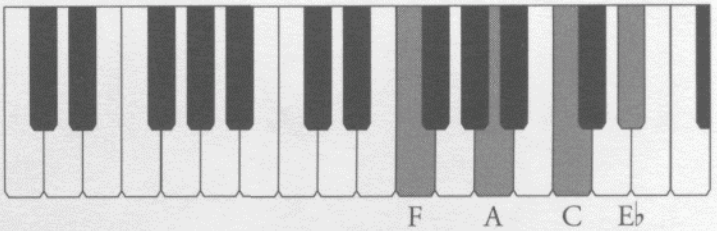
F6 *third inversion*



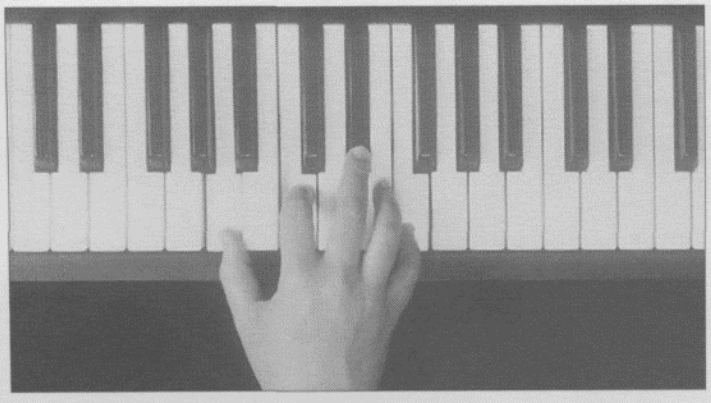


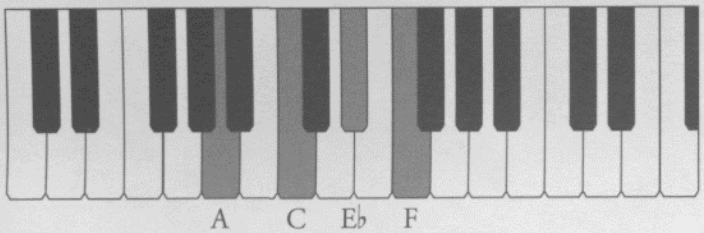
F7



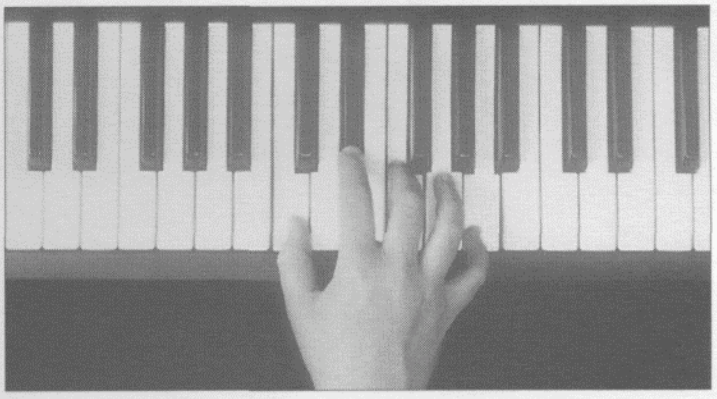


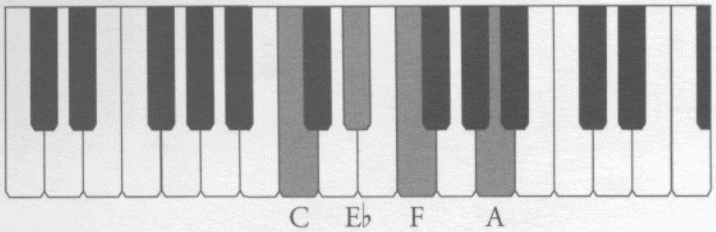
F7 *first inversion*



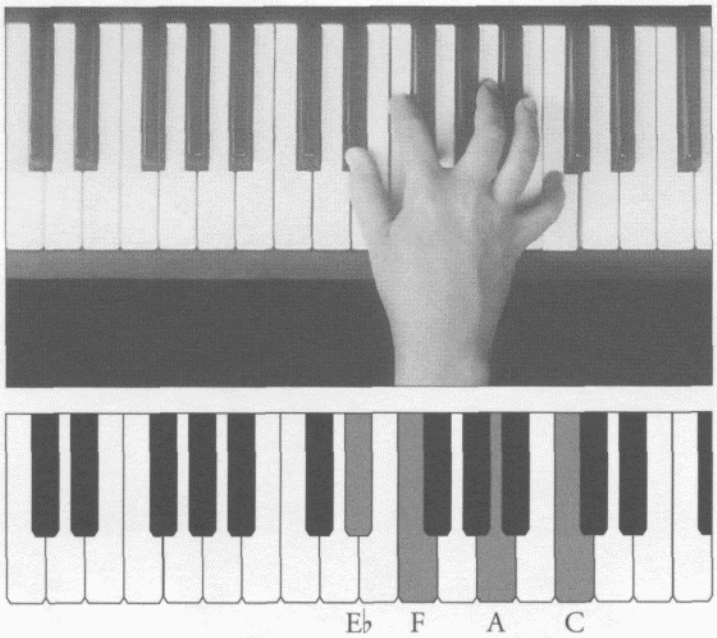


F7 *second inversion*

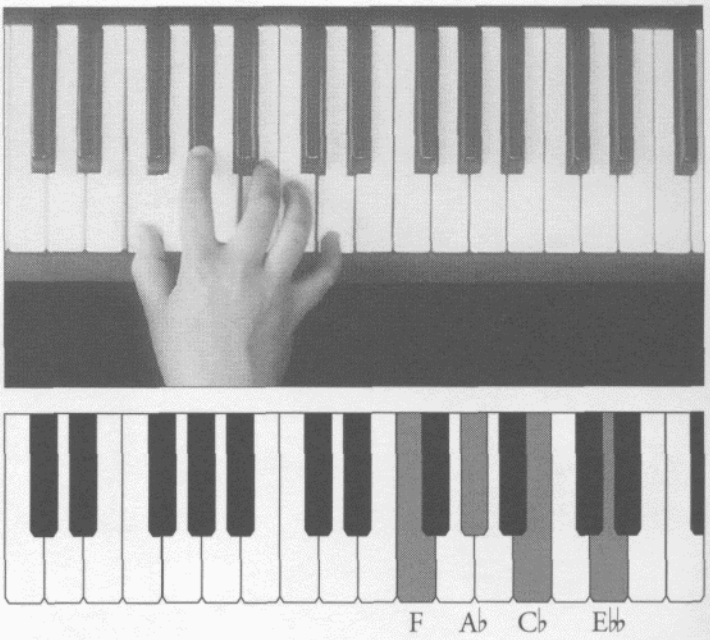




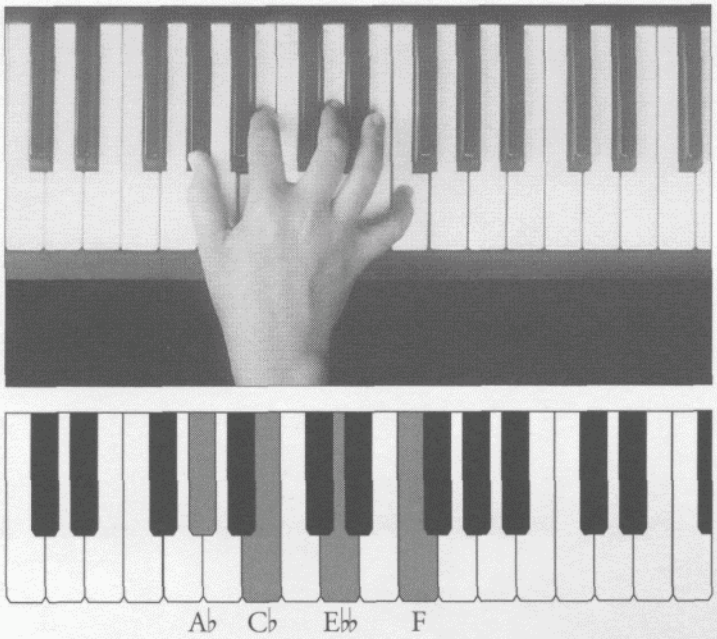
F7 *third inversion*



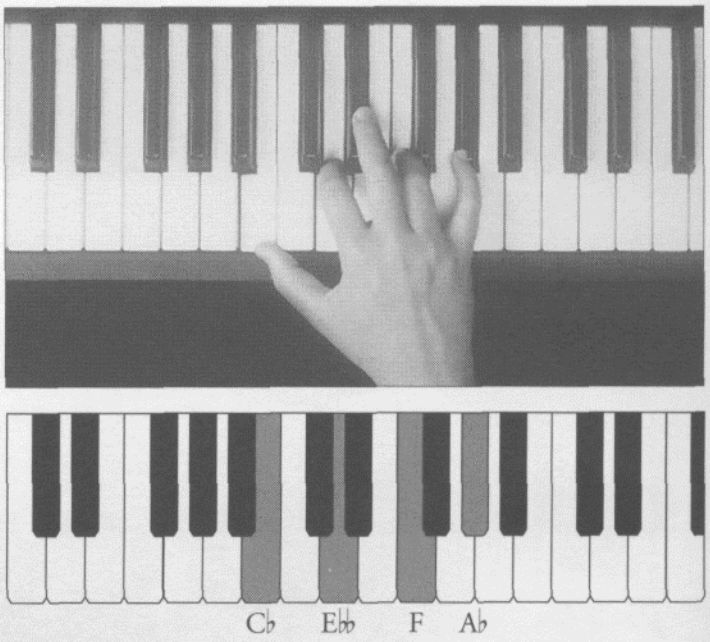
F°7



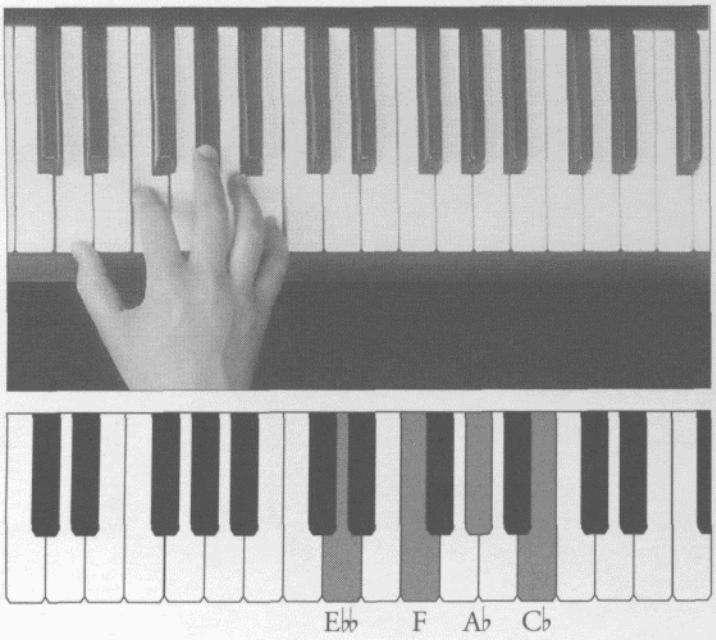
F°7 *first inversion*



F°7 *second inversion*



F°7 *third inversion*



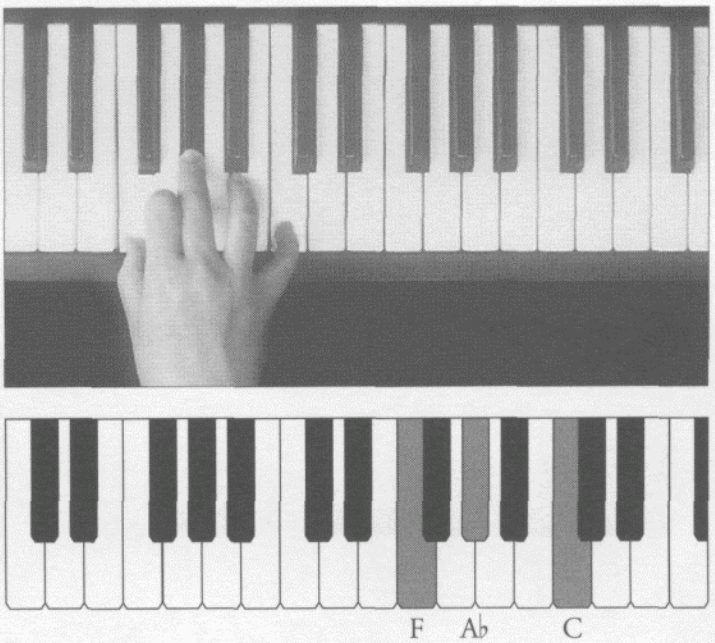
F major7

F major7 *first inversion*

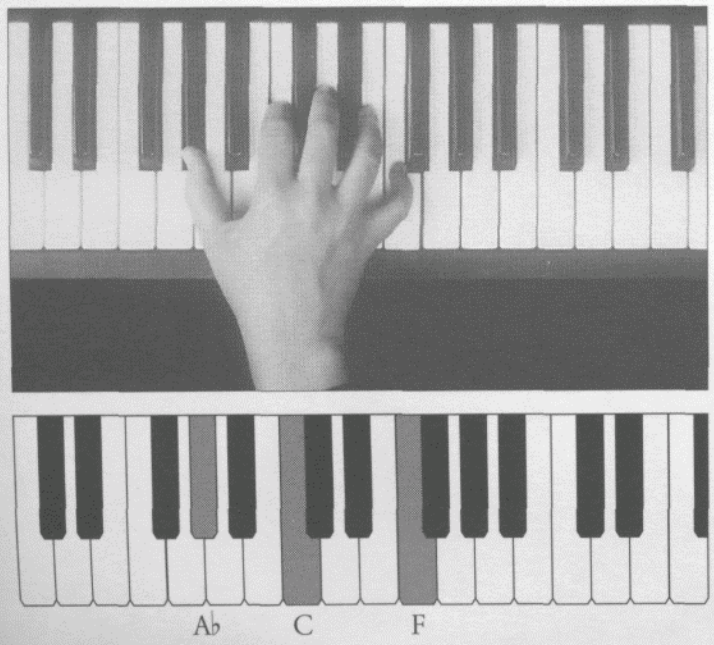
F major7 *second inversion*

F major7 *third inversion*

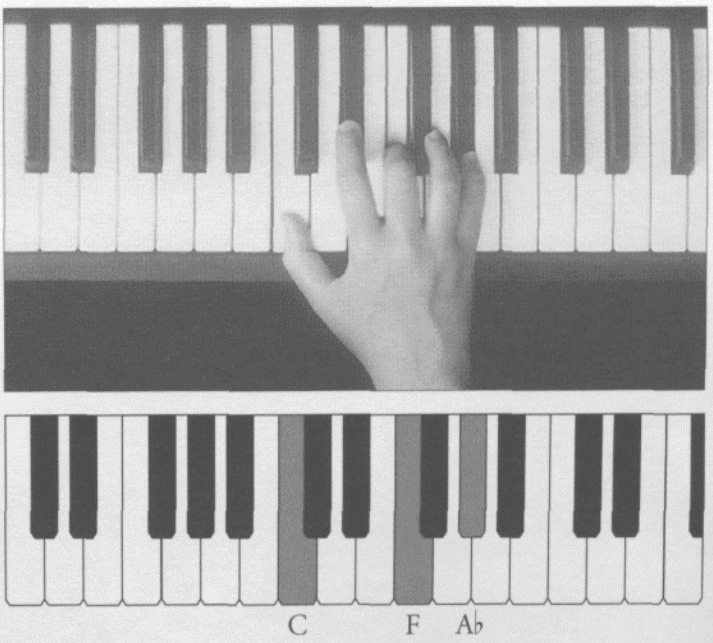
F minor



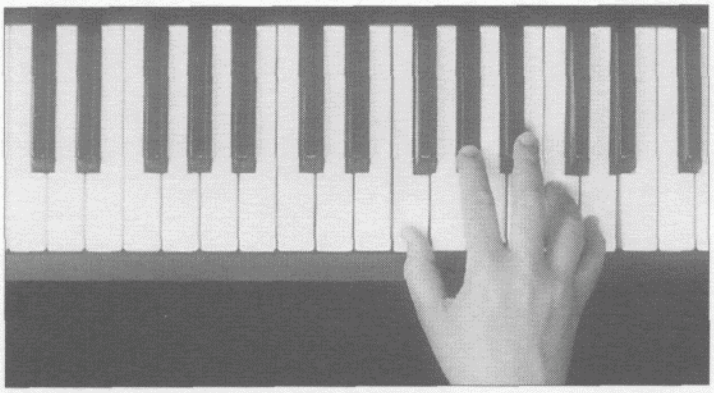
F minor *first inversion*

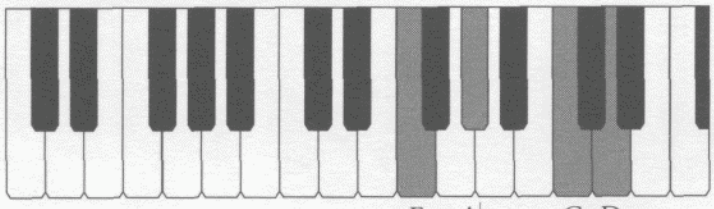


F minor *second inversion*

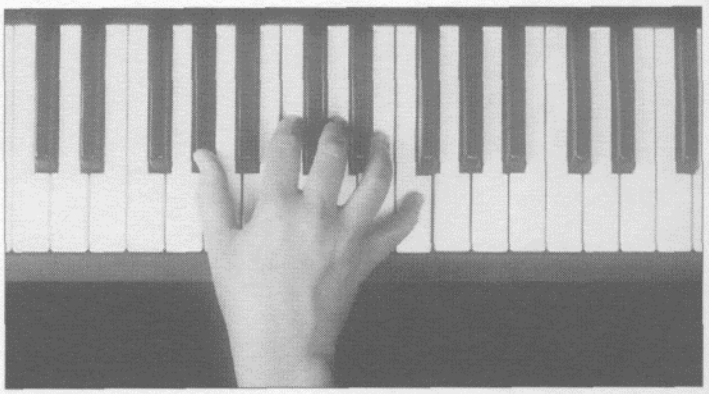


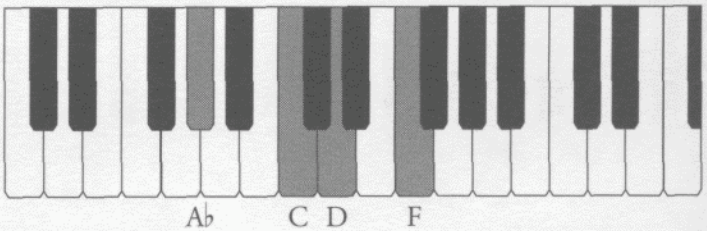
F minor6



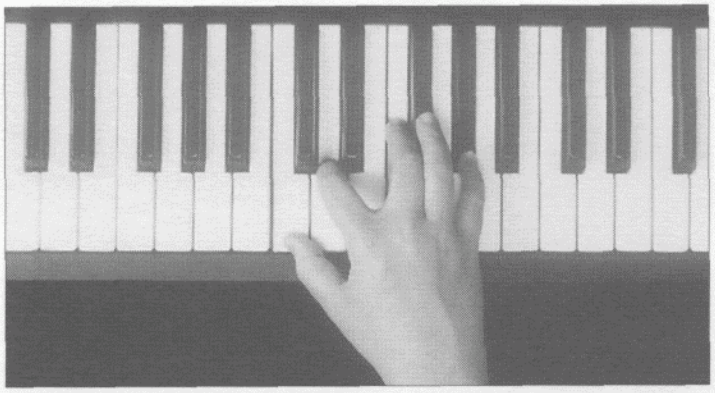


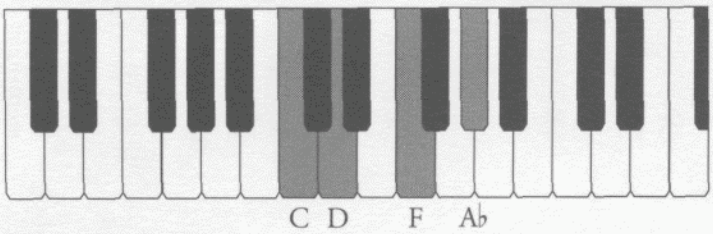
F minor6 *first inversion*



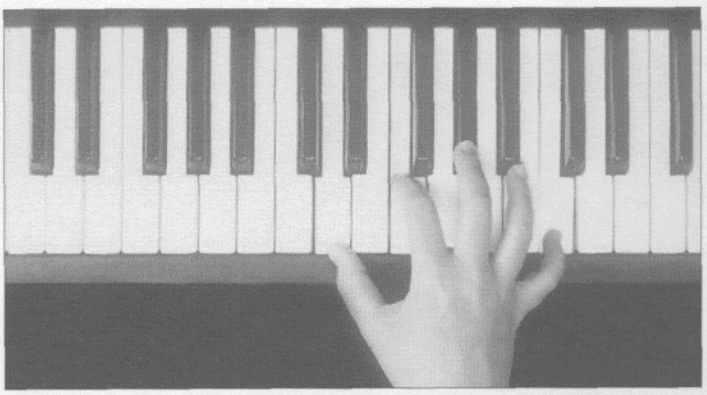


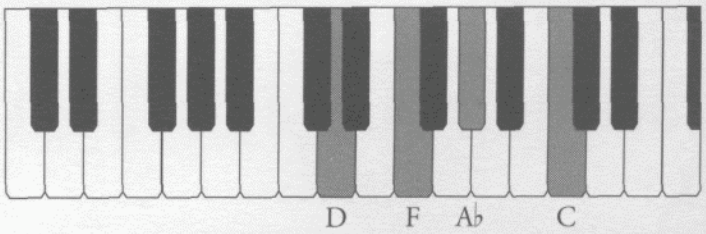
F minor6 *scond inversion*



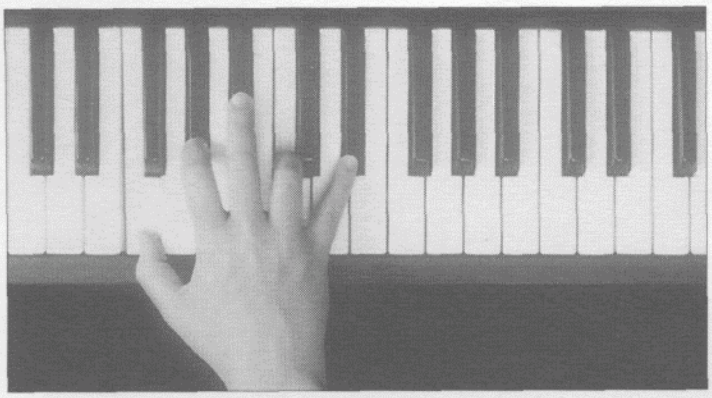


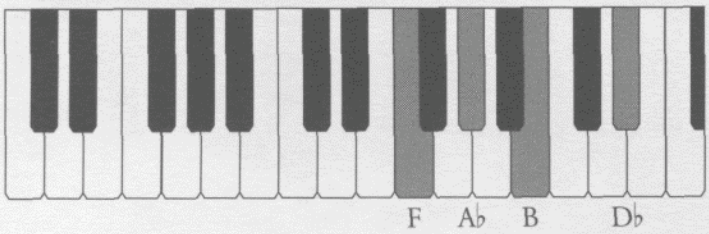
F minor6 *third inversion*



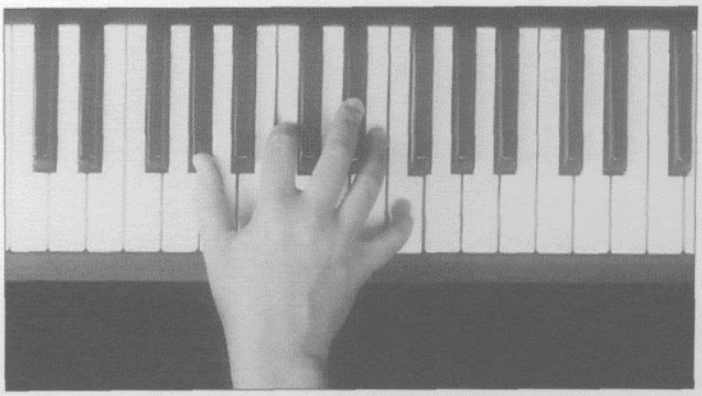


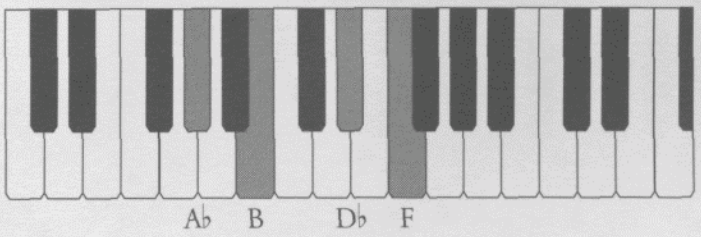
F minor7



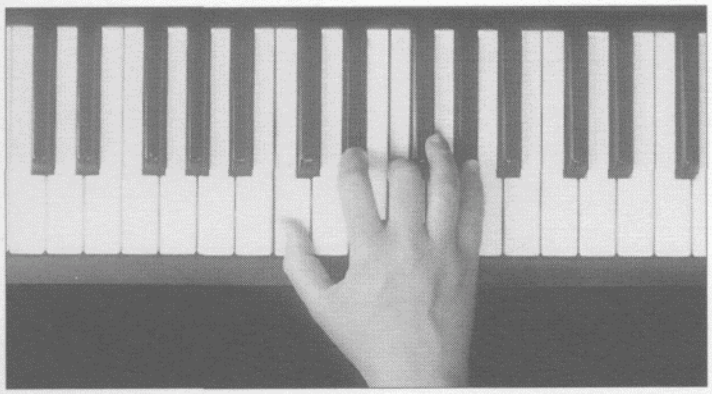


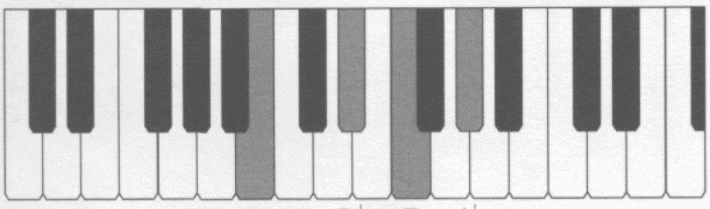
F minor7 *first inversion*



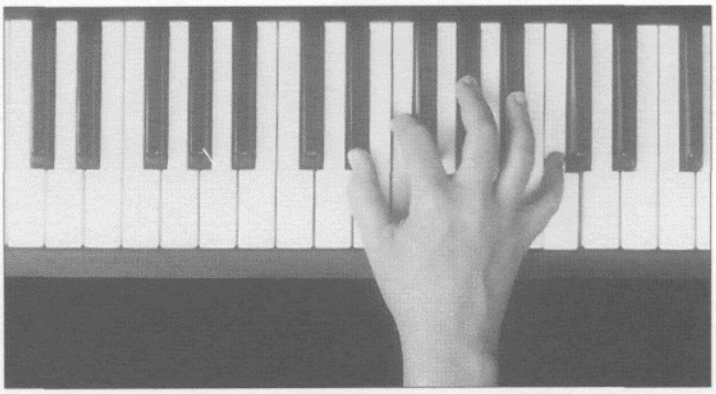


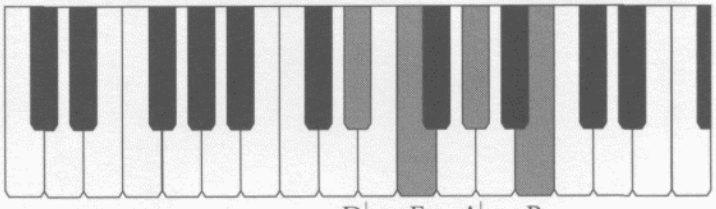
F minor7 *second inversion*



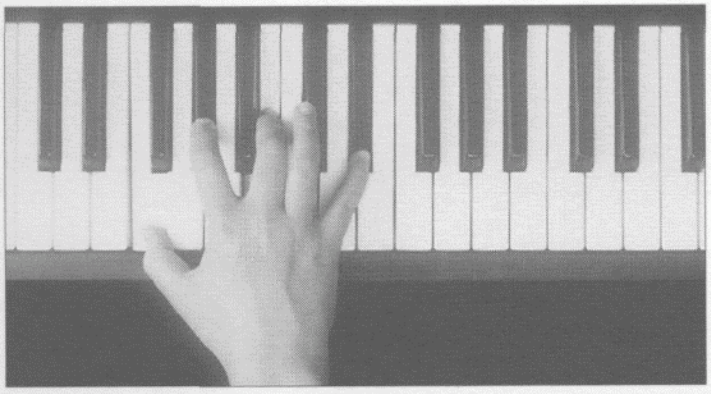


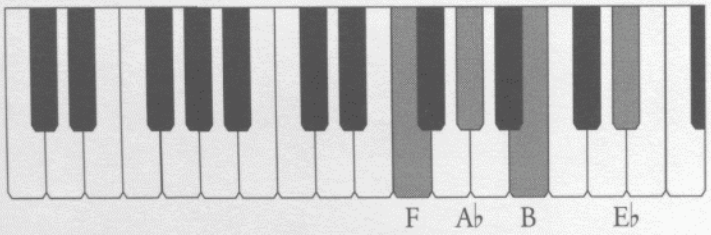
F minor7 *third inversion*



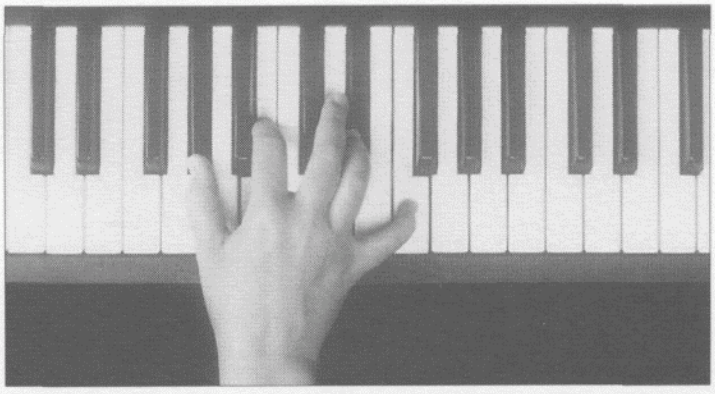


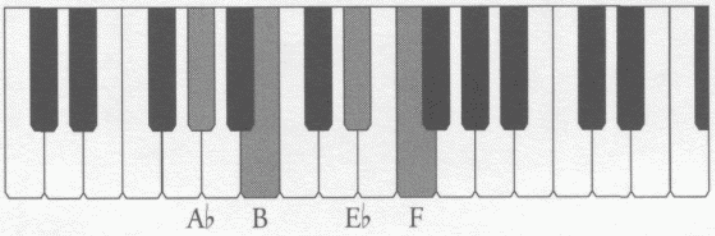
F minor7♭5



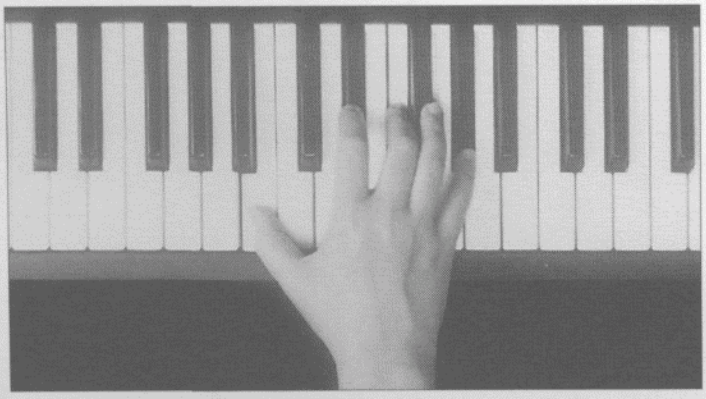


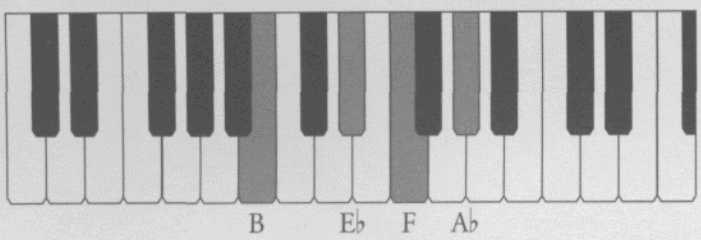
F minor7♭5 *first inversion*



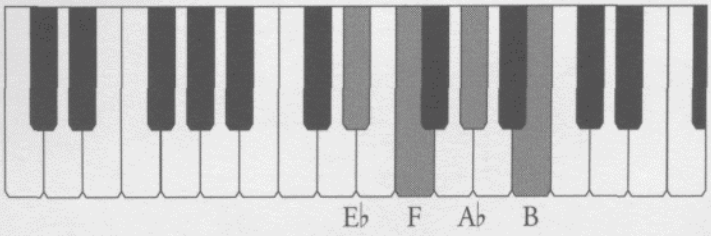


F minor7♭5 *second inversion*

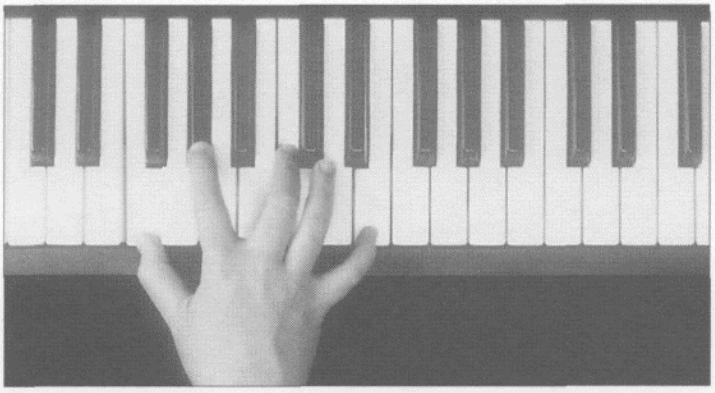


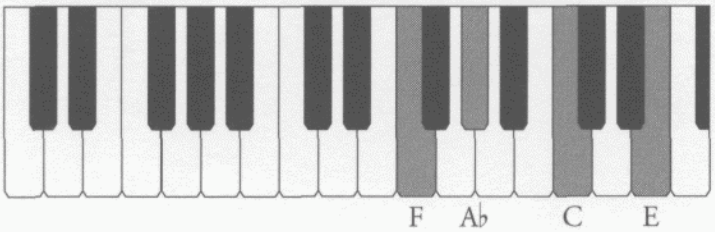


F minor7♭5 *third inversion*

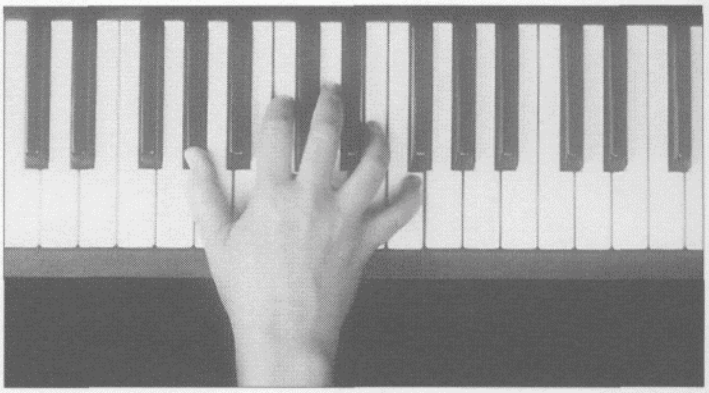


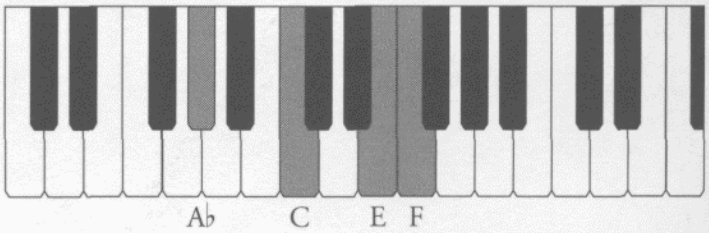
F minor (major7)



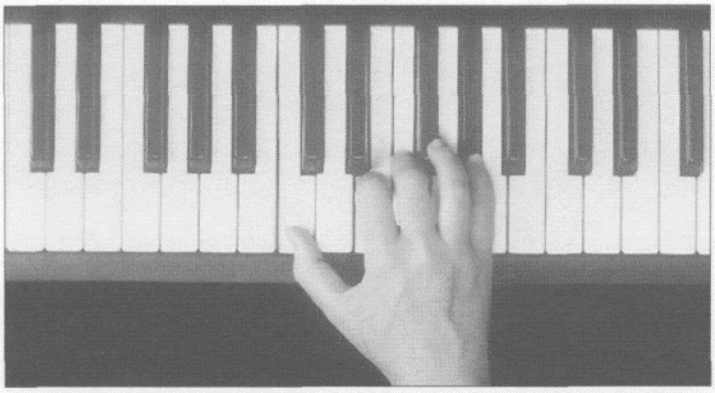


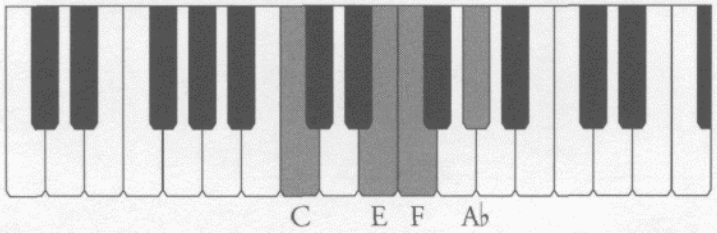
F minor (major7) *first inversion*



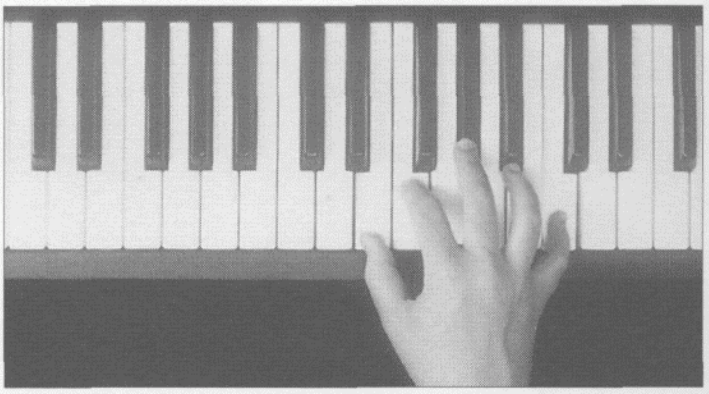


F minor (major7) *second inversion*





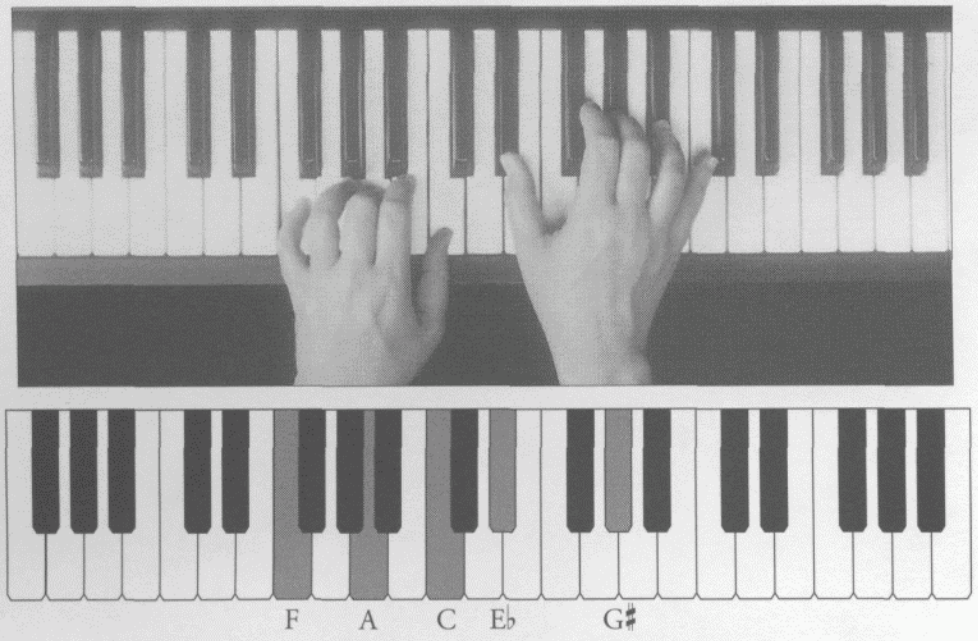
F minor (major7) *third inversion*



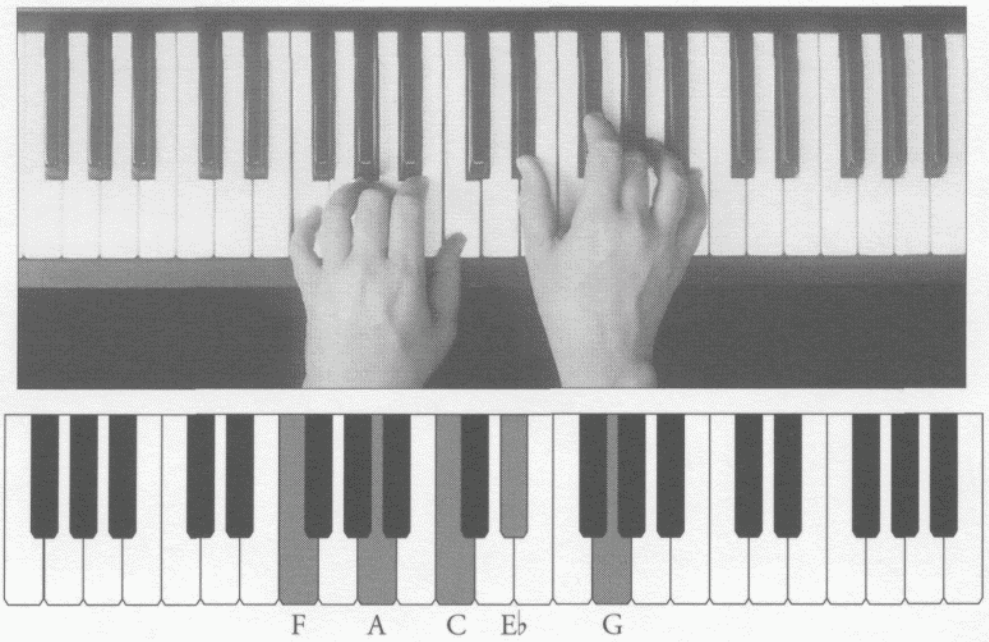
F chords
using both hands

F7♭9

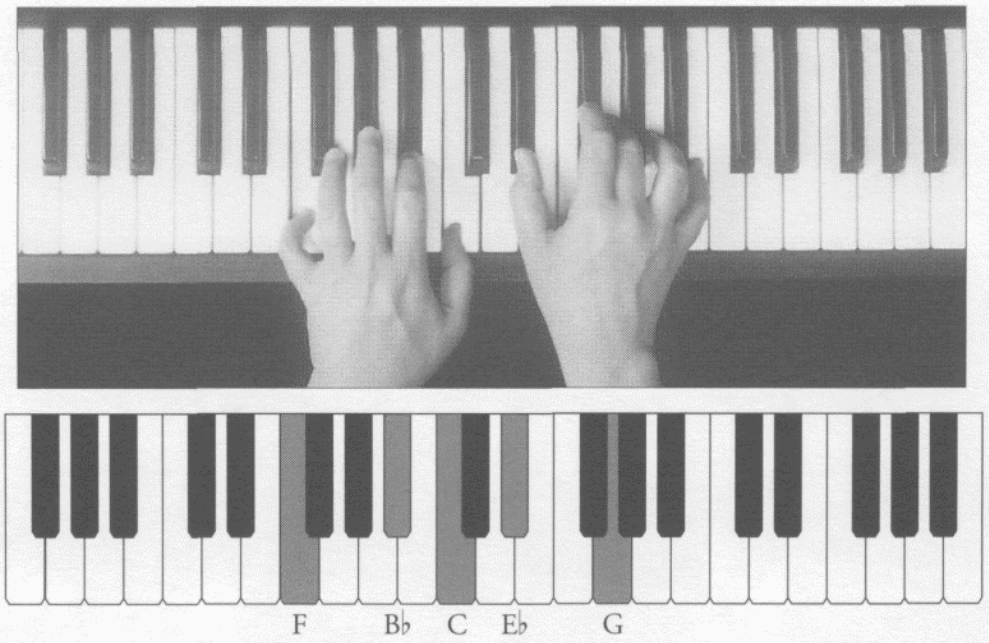
F7♯9



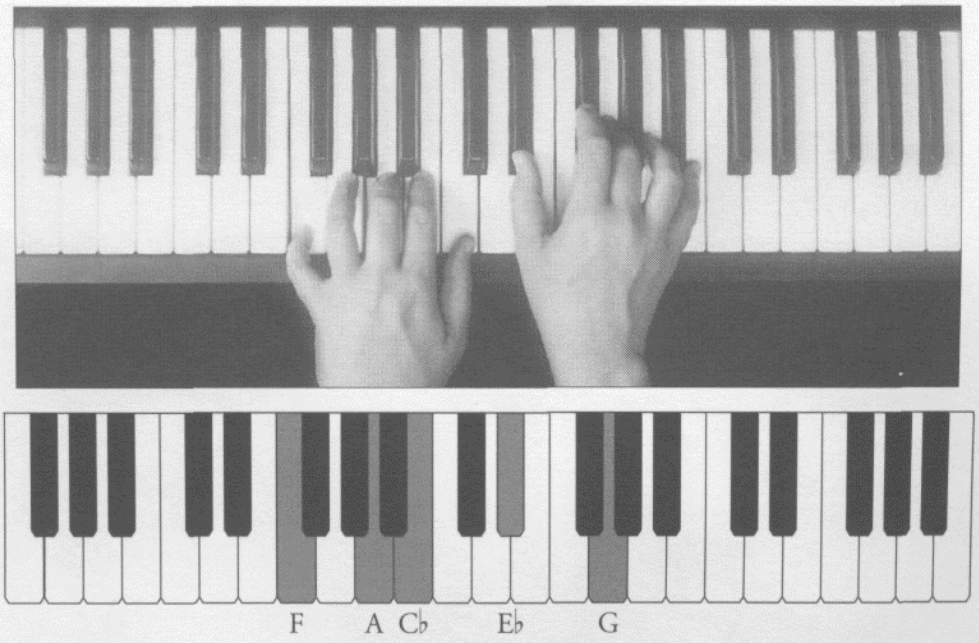
F9



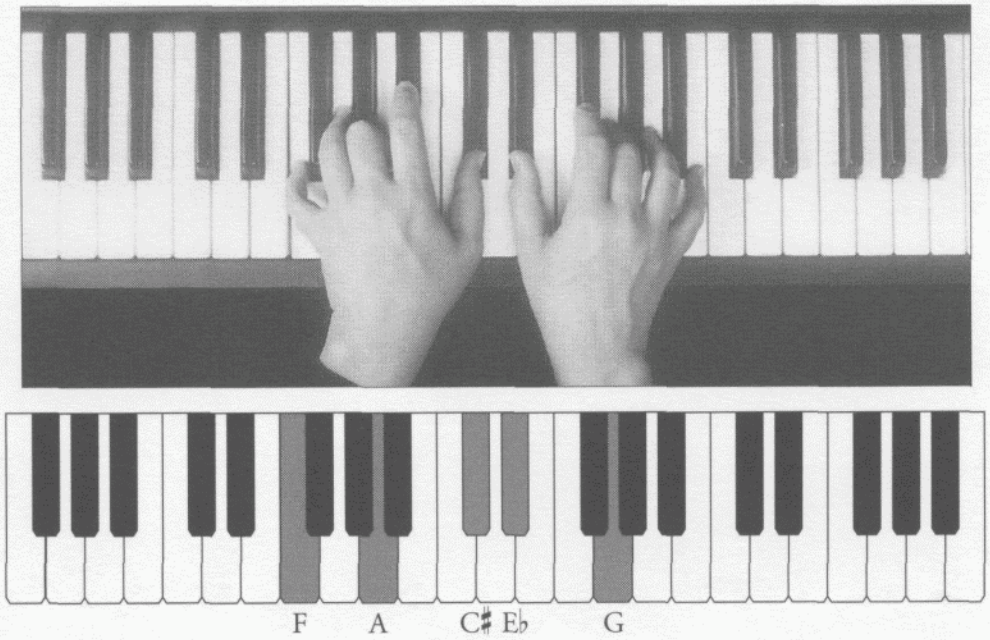
F9sus4



F9♭5

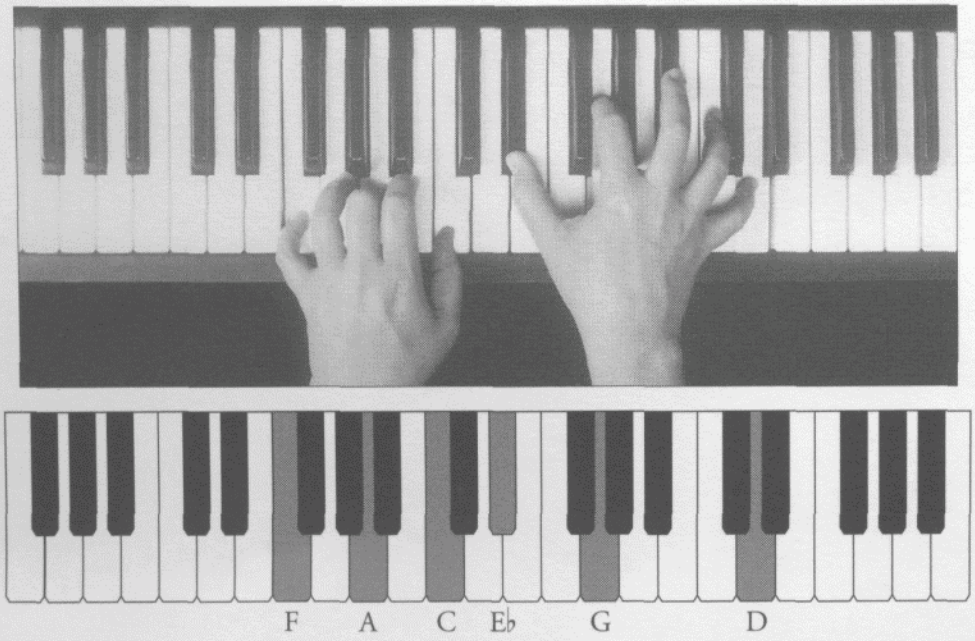


F9♯5

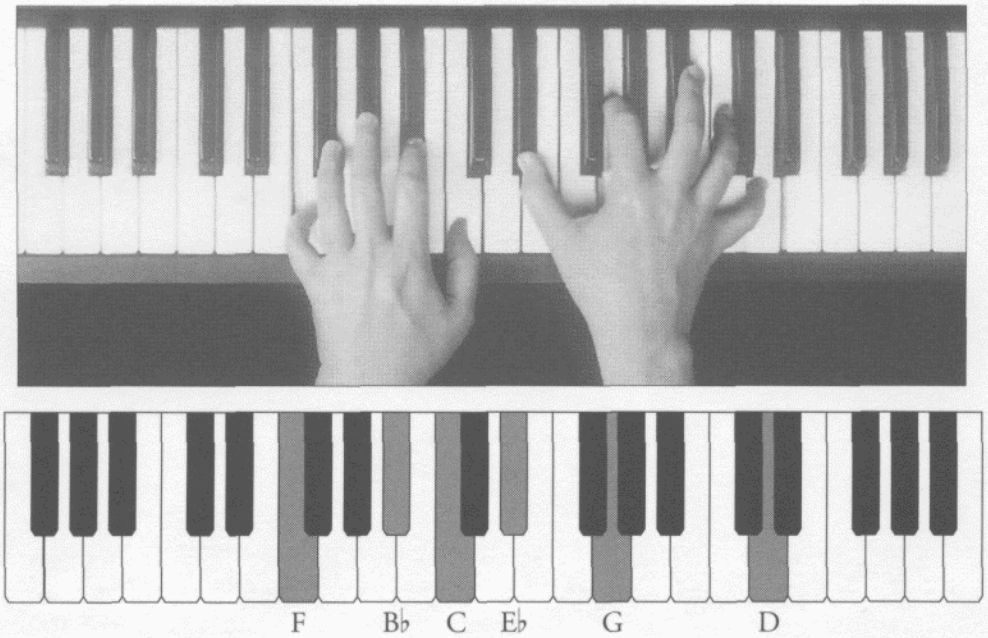


F9♯11

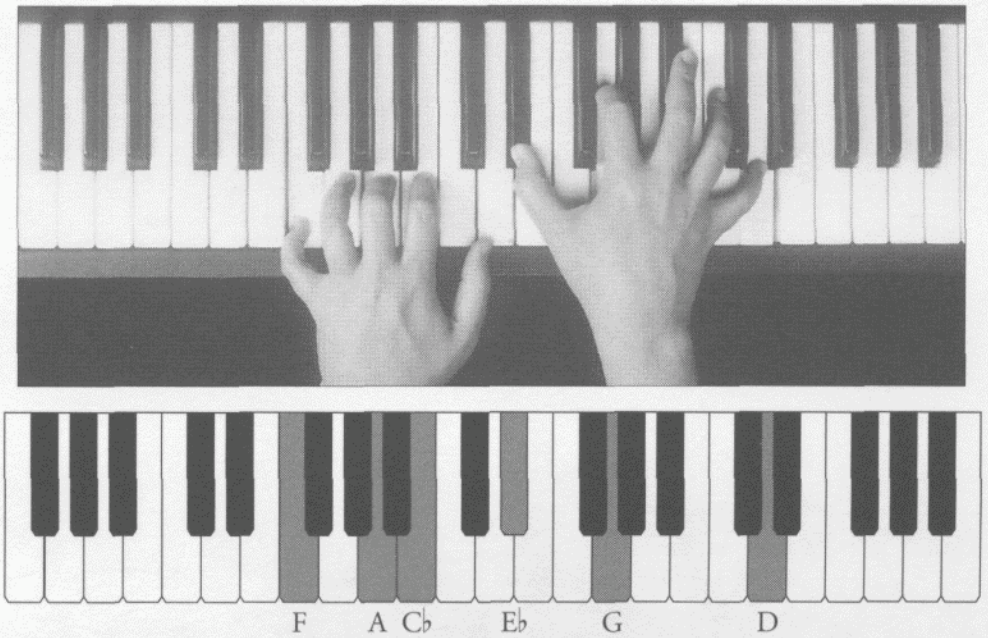
F13



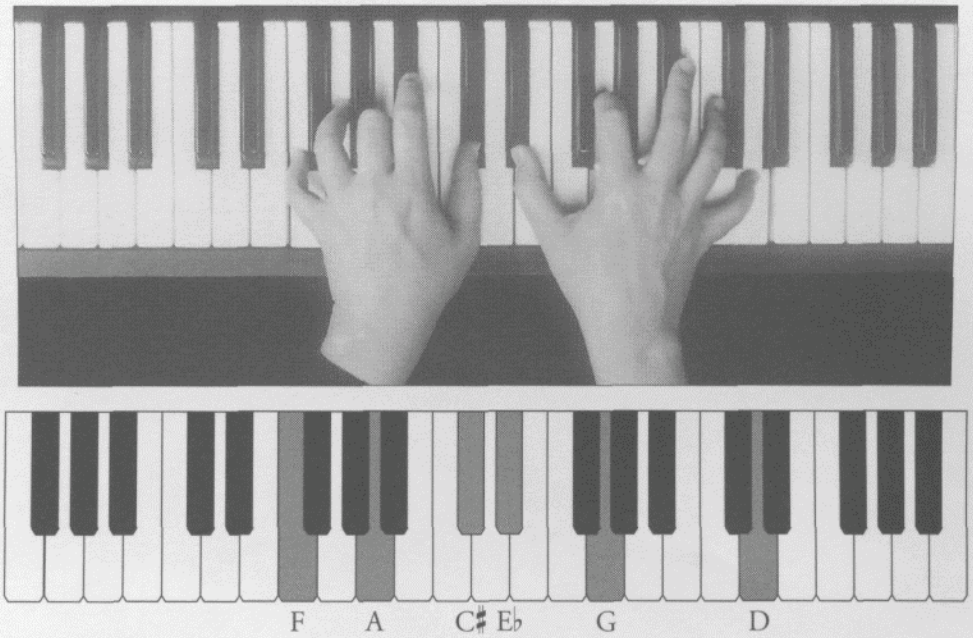
F13sus4



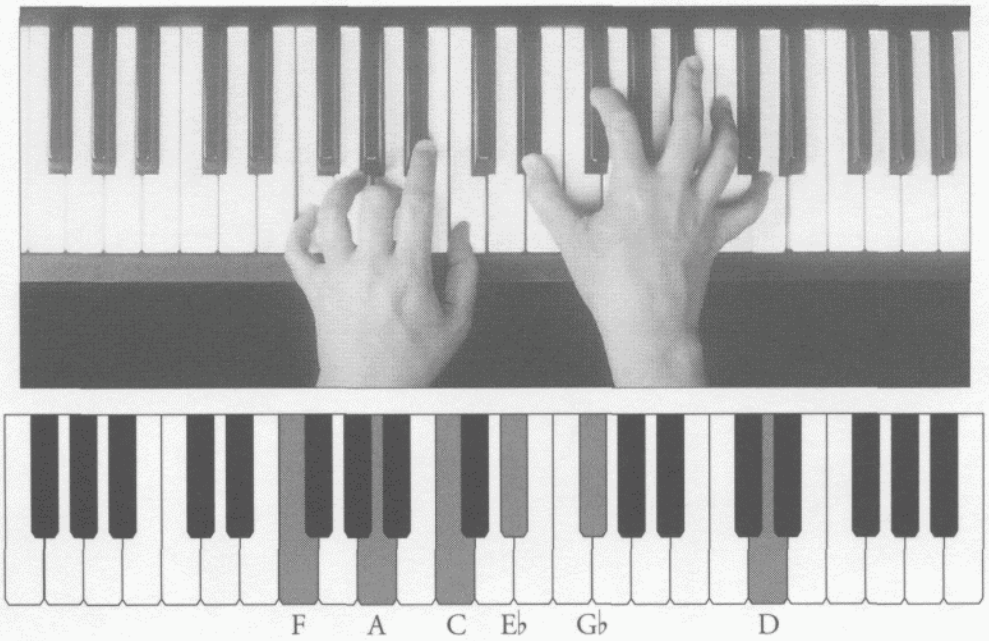
F13♭5



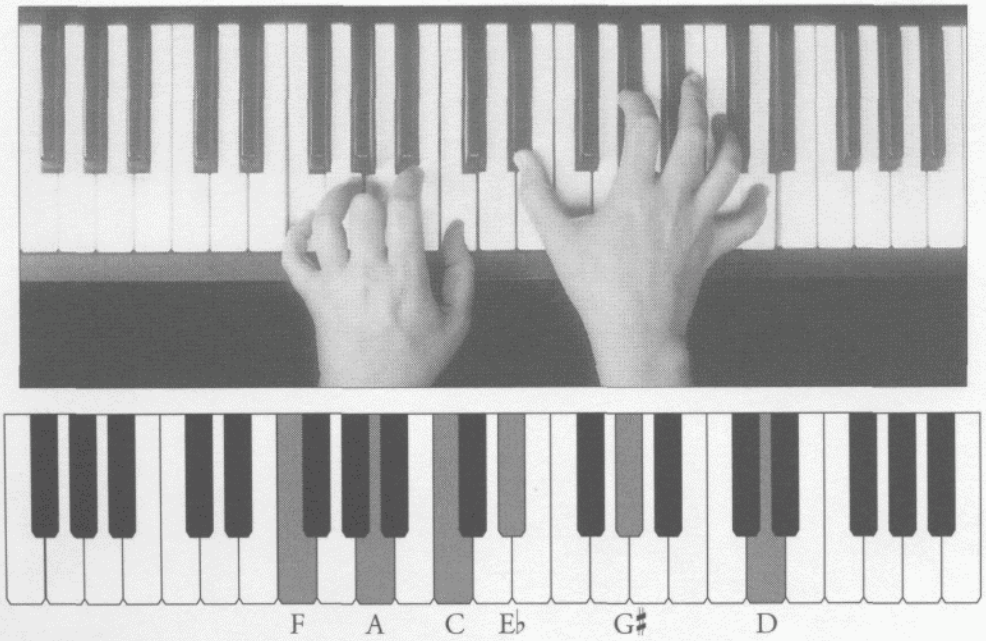
F13♯5



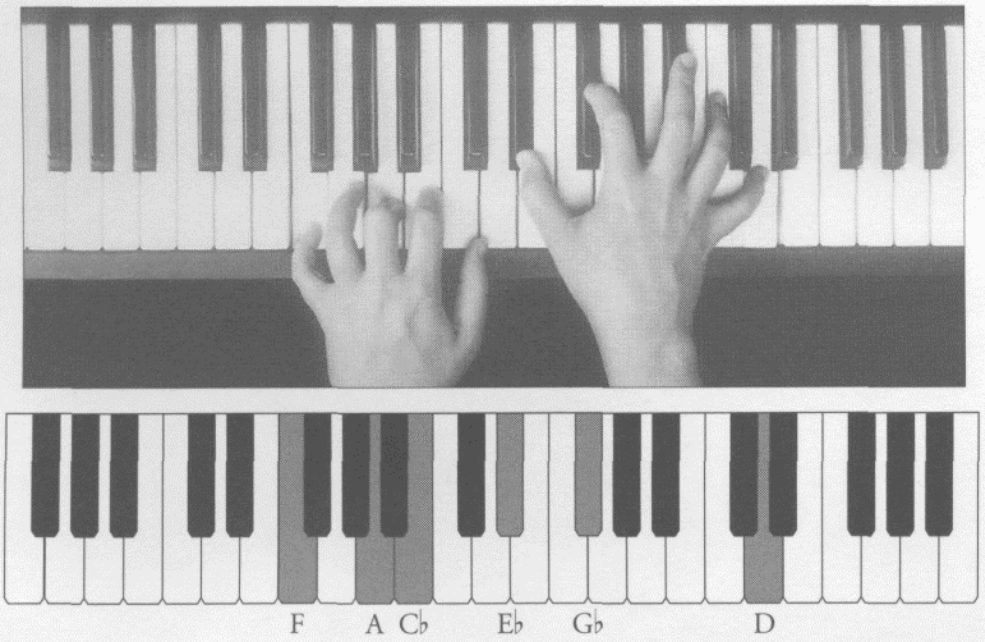
F13♭9



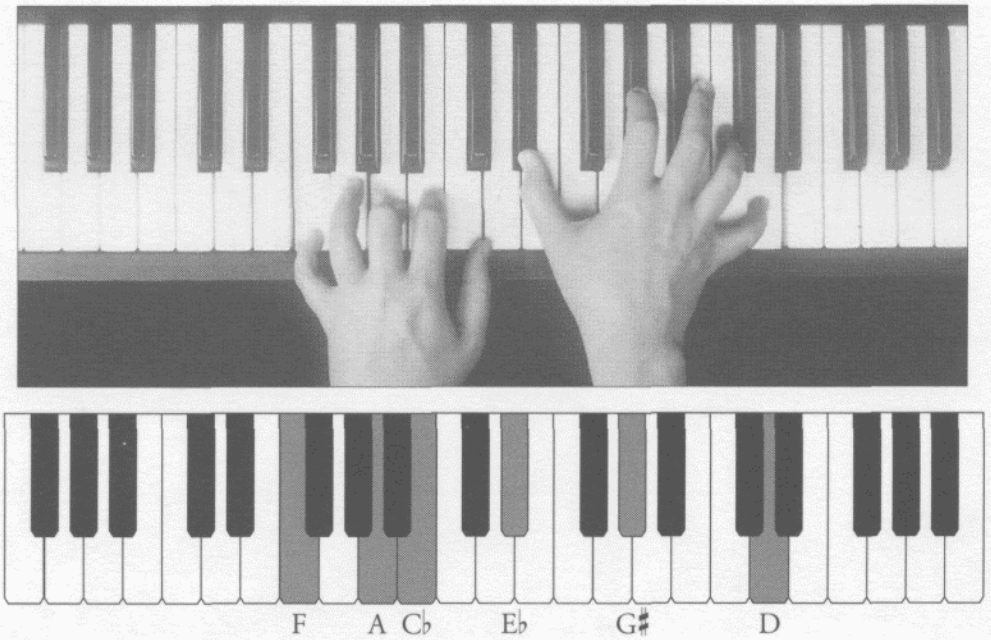
F13♯9



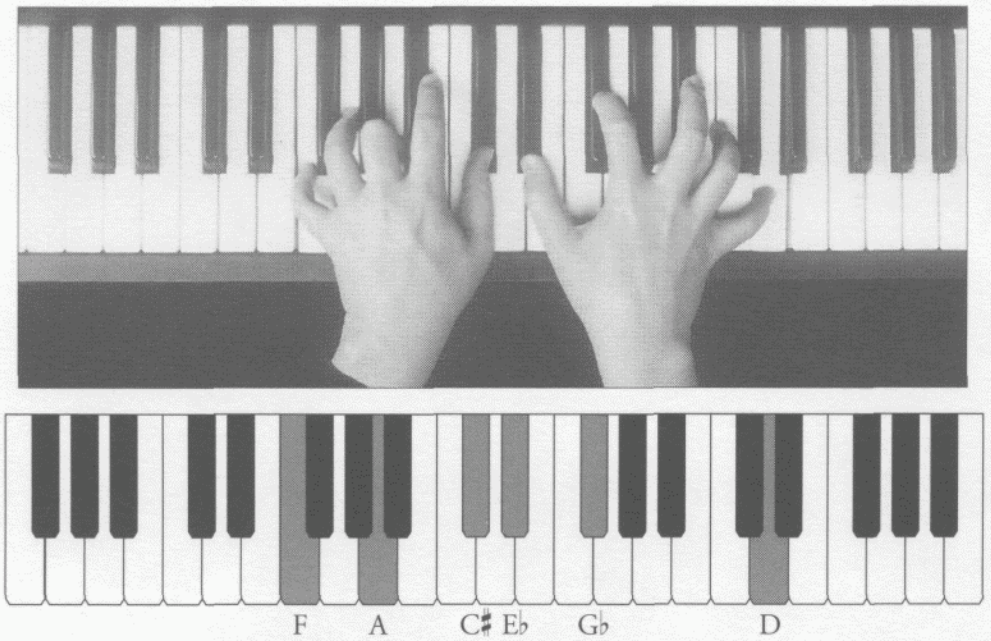
F13♭5♭9



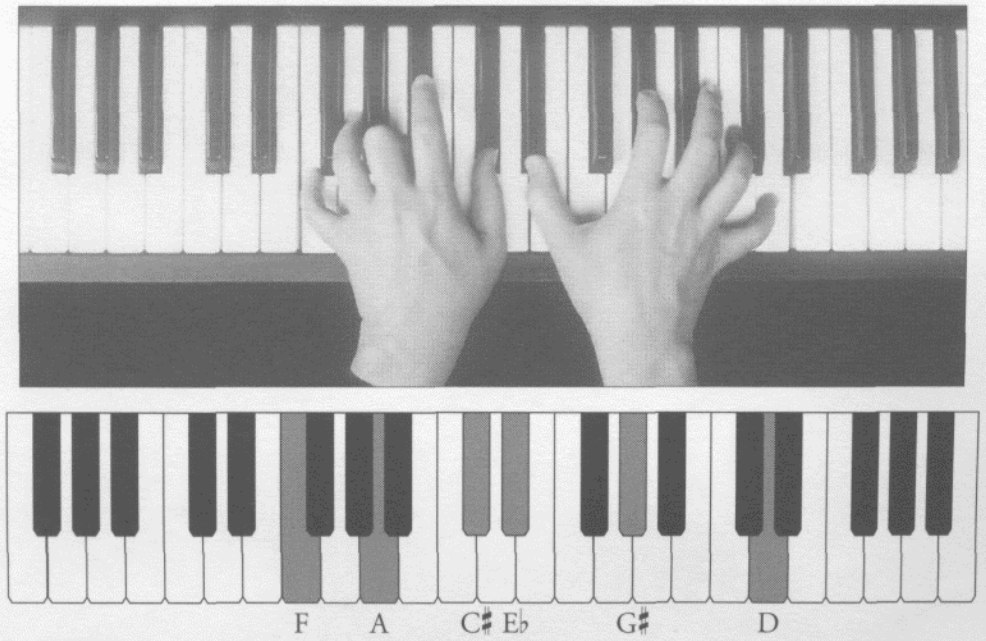
F13♭5♯9



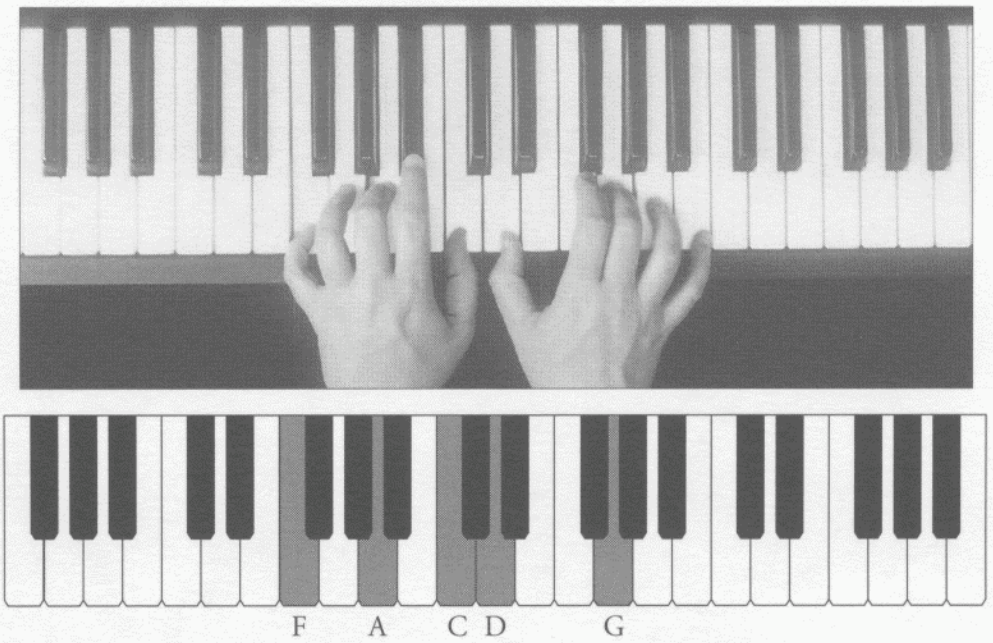
F13♯5♭9



F13♯5♯9



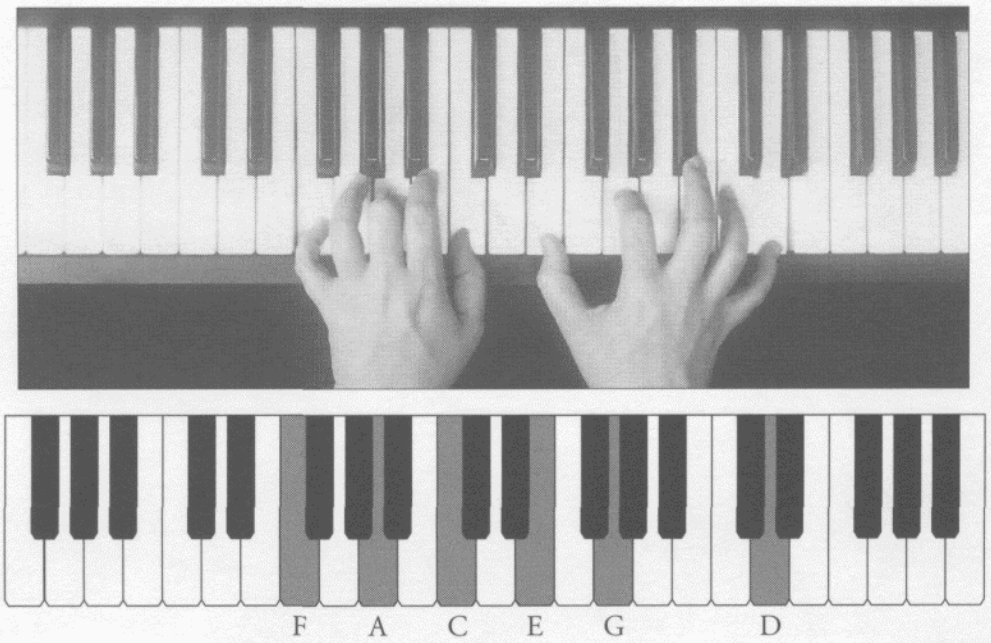
F 6/9



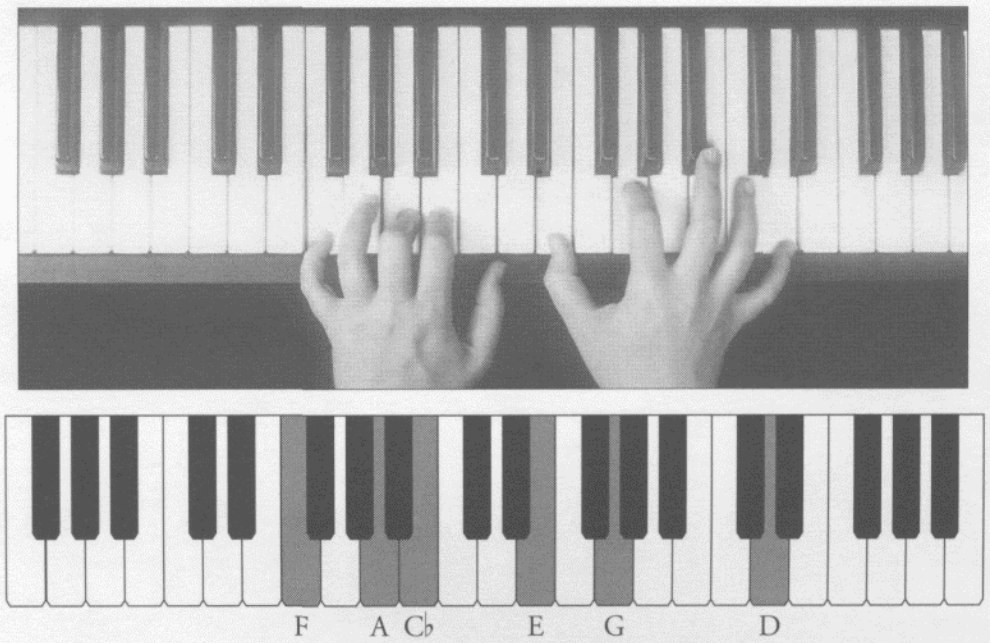
F major9

F major9♯11

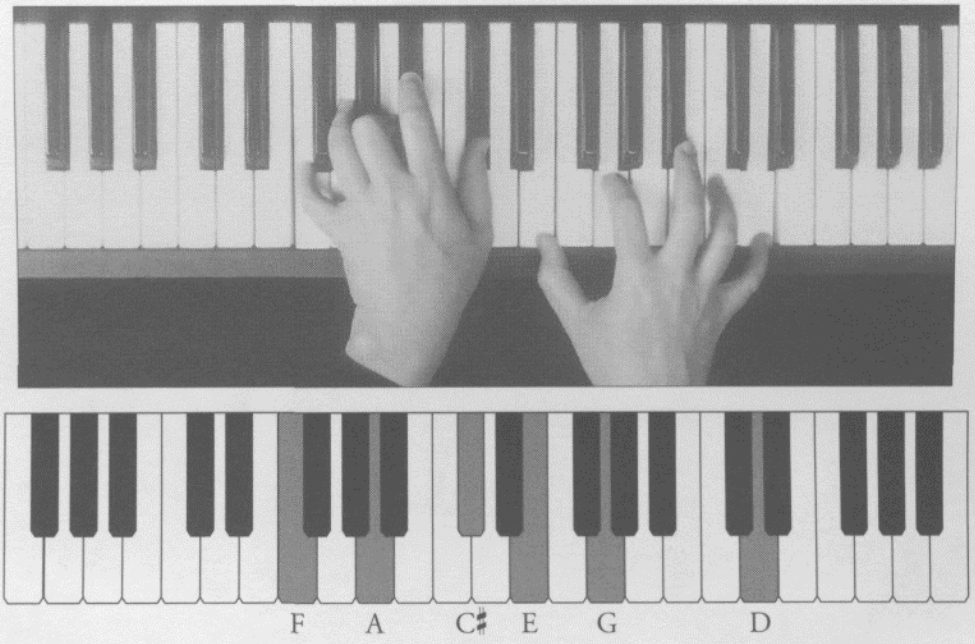
F major13



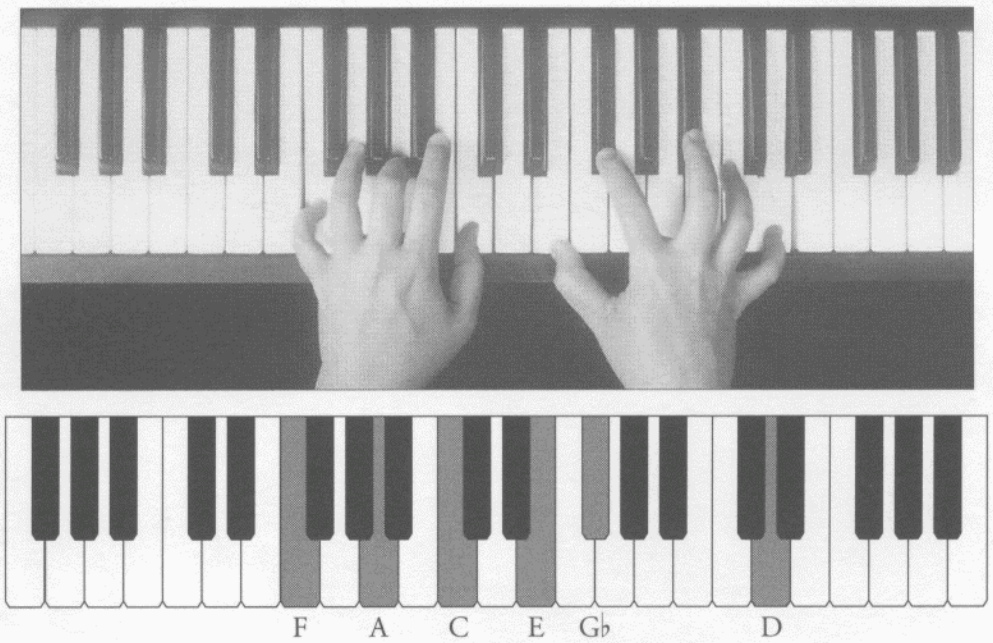
F major13♭5



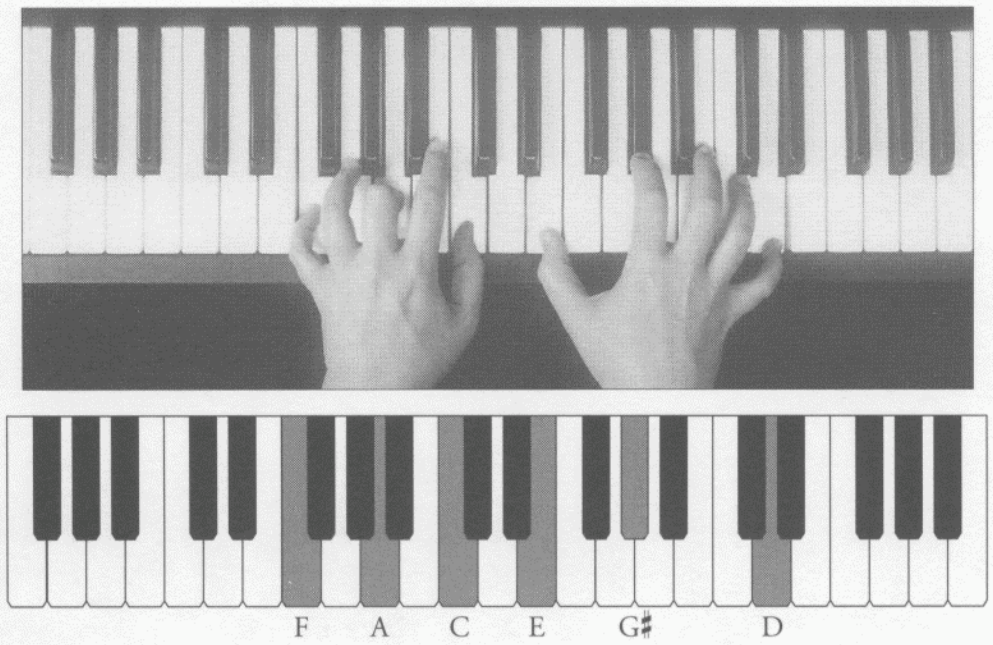
F major13♯5



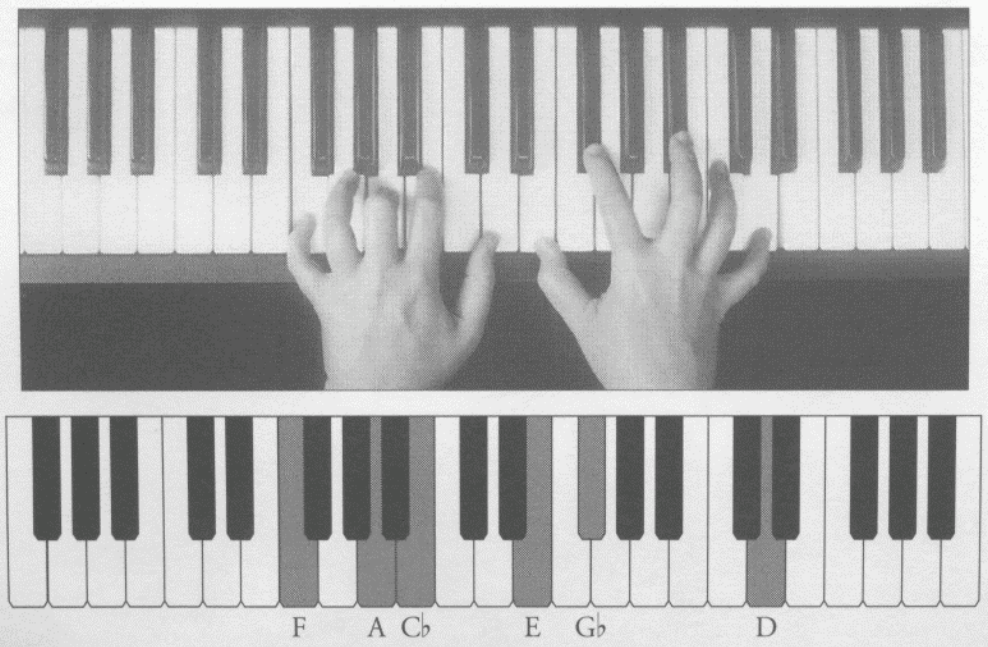
F major13♭9



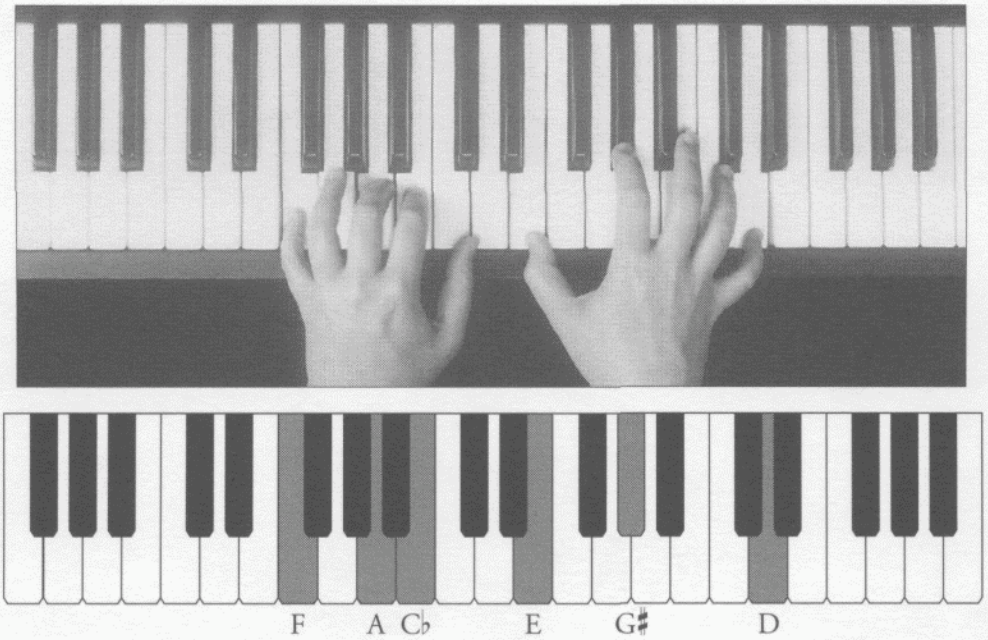
F major13♯9



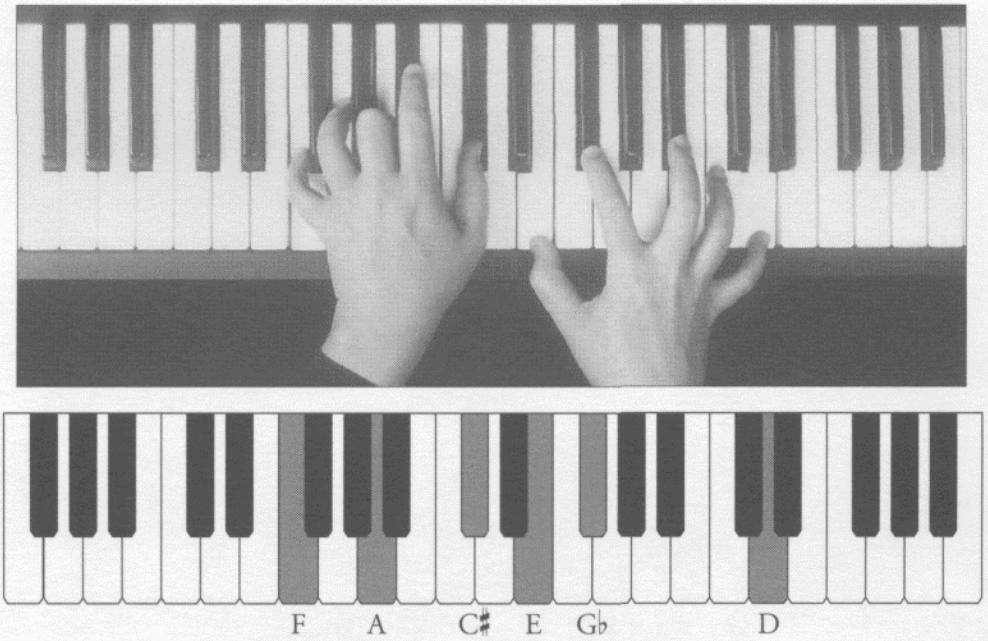
F major13♭5♭9



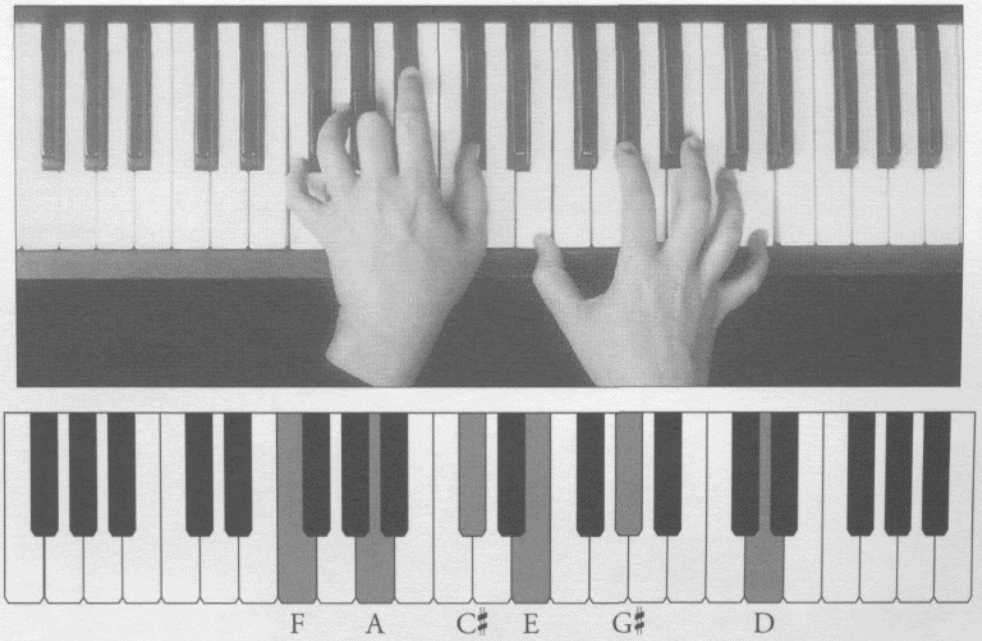
F major13♭5♯9



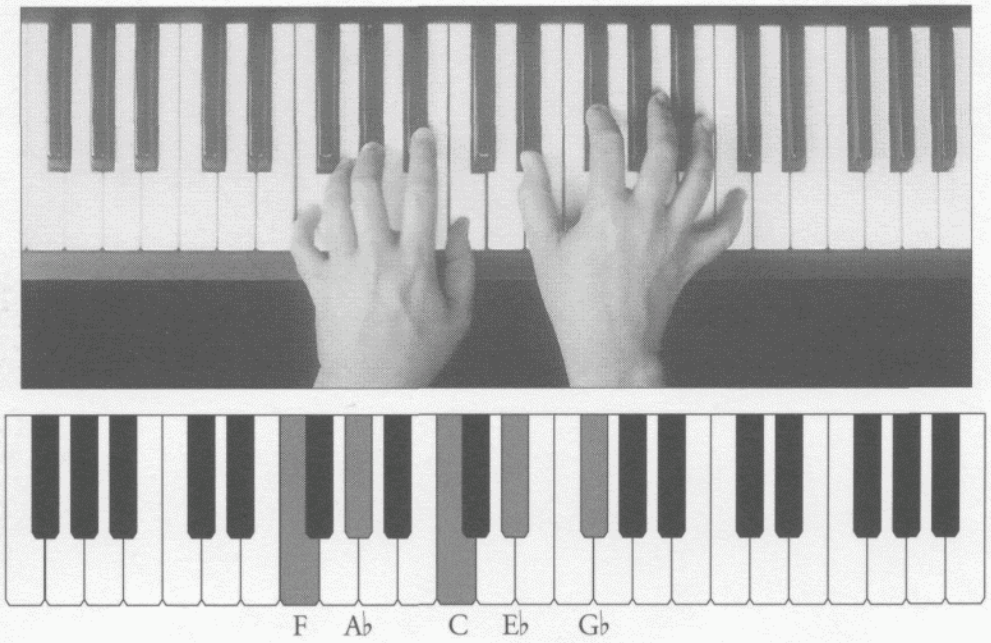
F major13♯5♭9



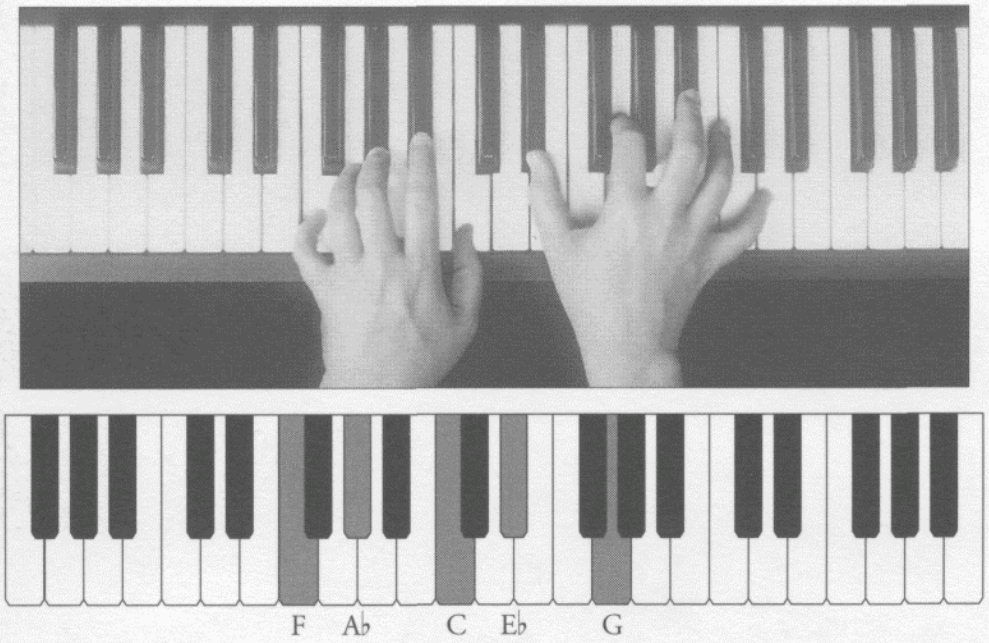
F major13♯5♯9



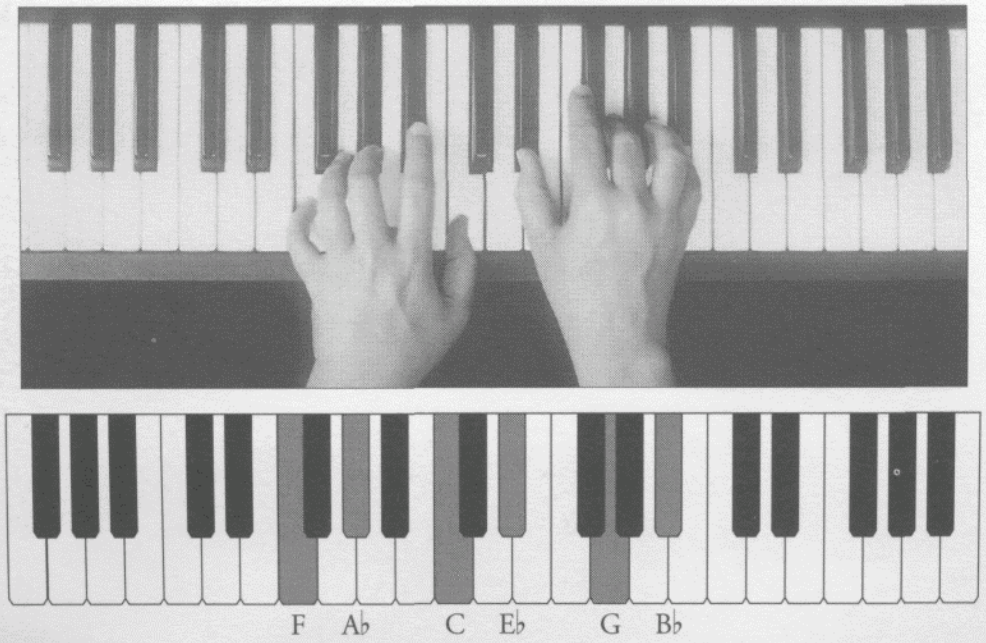
F minor7♭9



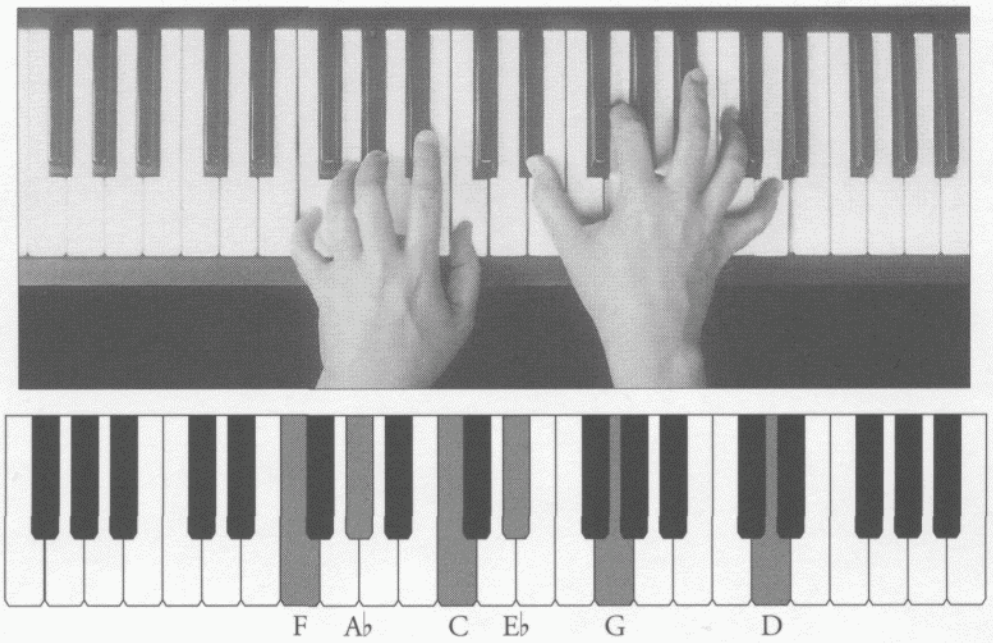
F minor9



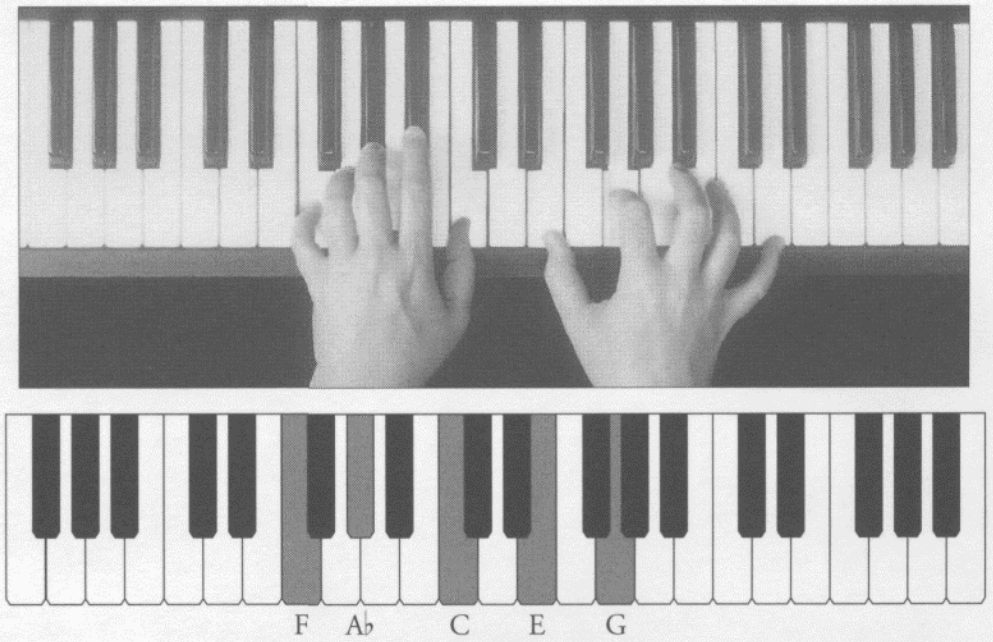
F minor11



F minor13

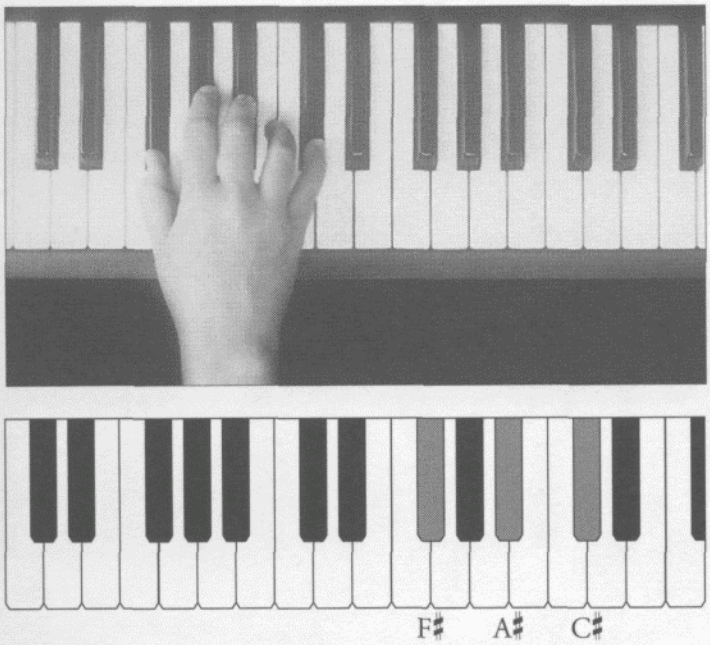


F minor9 (major7)

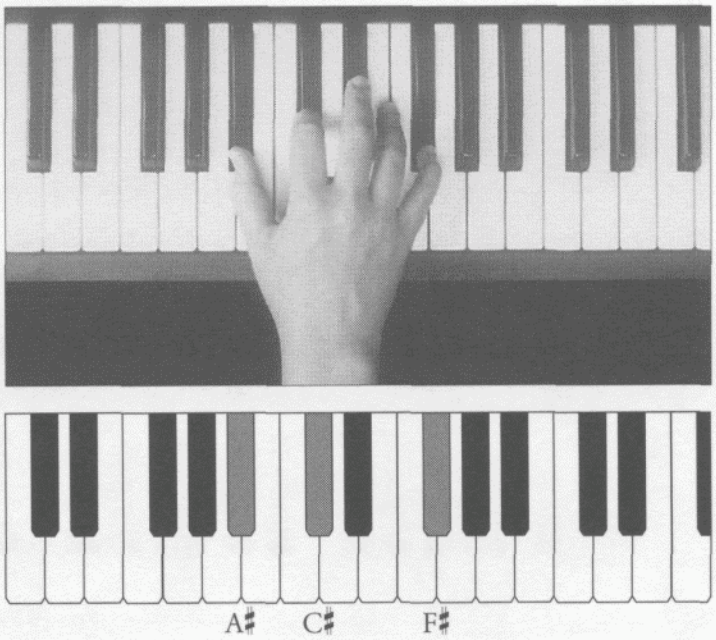


F♯ chords

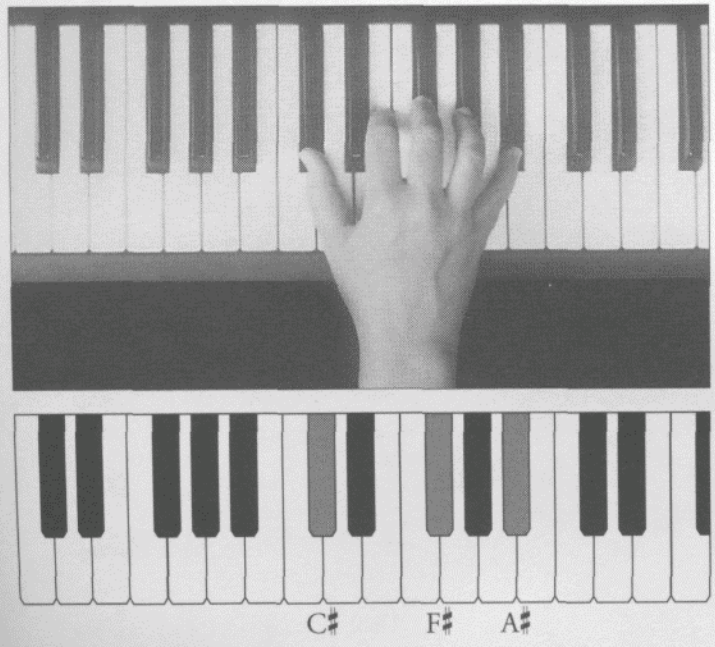
F♯ major



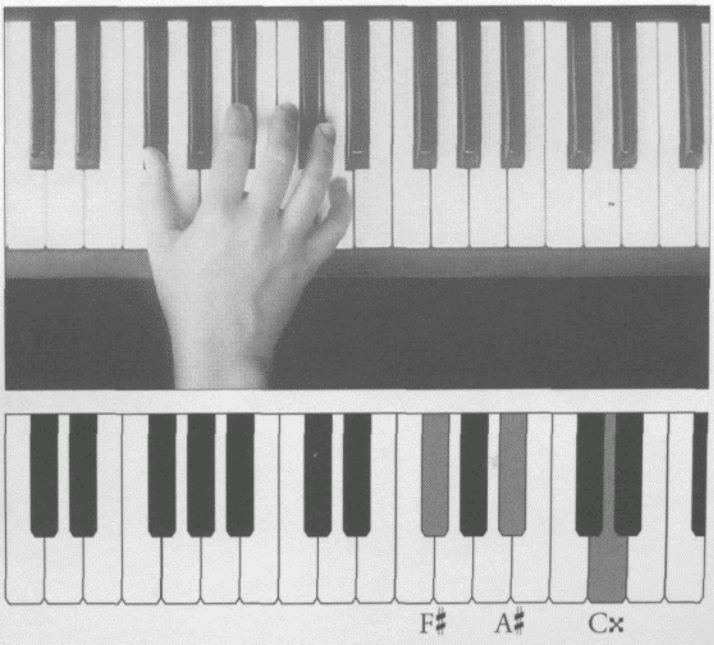
F♯/A♯ *first inversion*



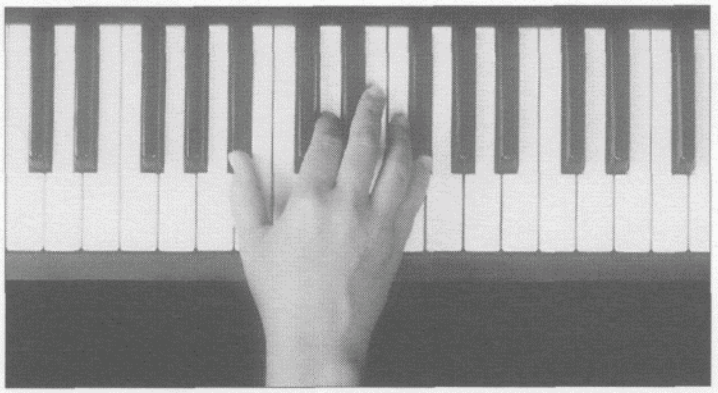
F♯/C♯ *second inversion*

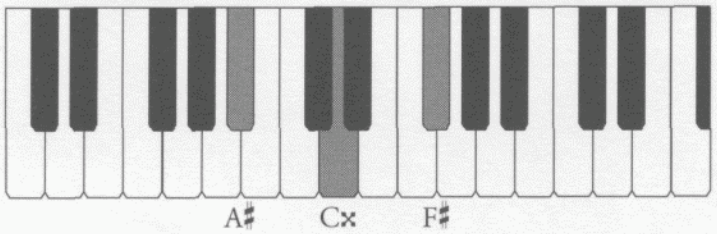


F♯ augmented

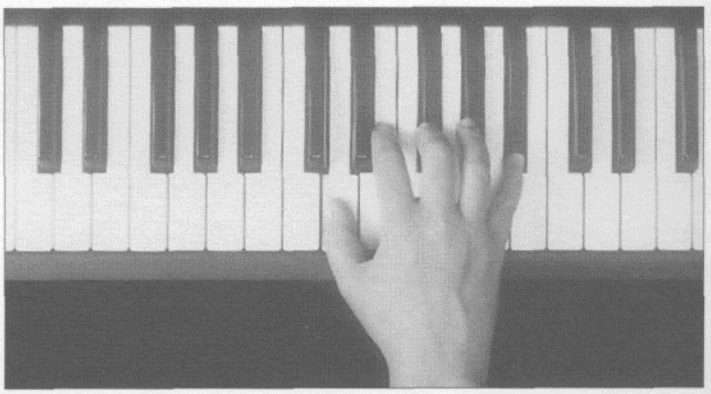


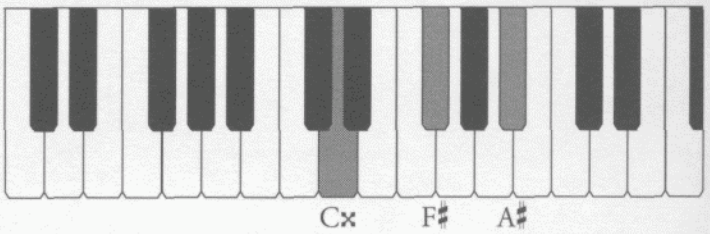
F♯ augmented *first inversion*



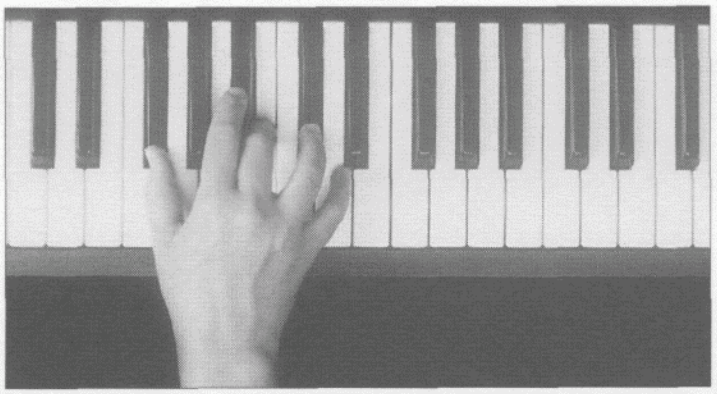


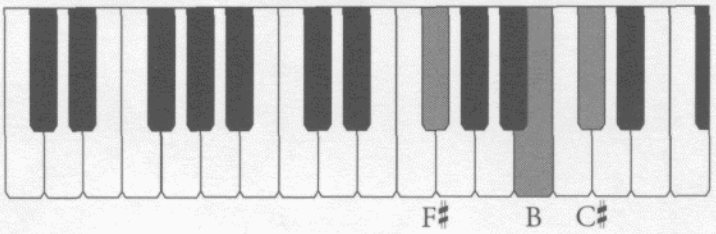
F♯ augmented *second inversion*



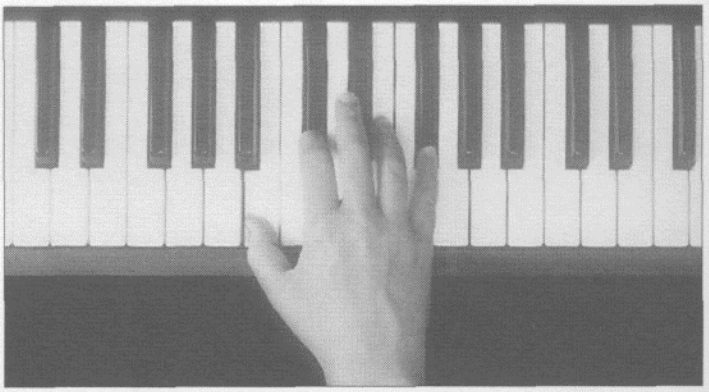


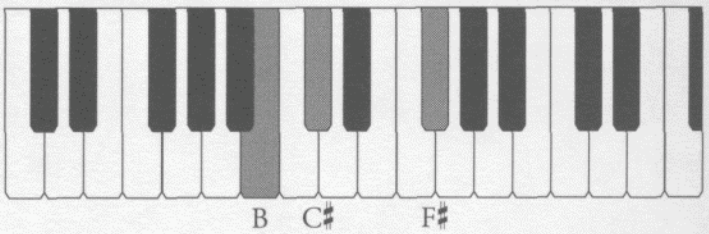
F♯sus4



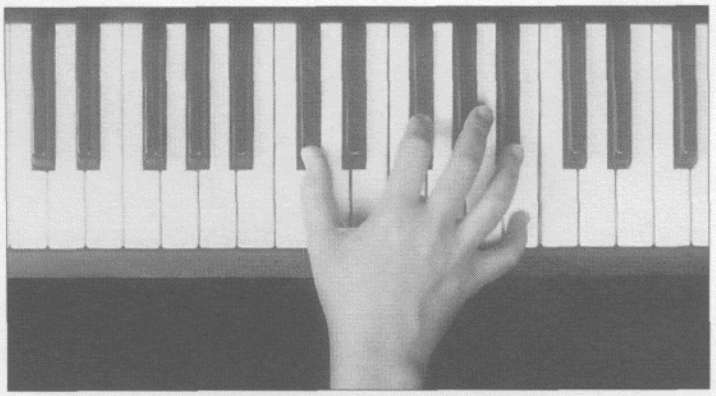


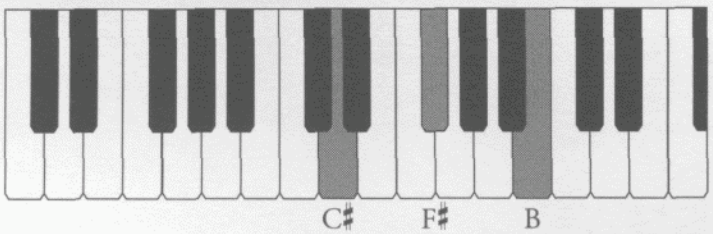
F♯sus4 *first inversion*



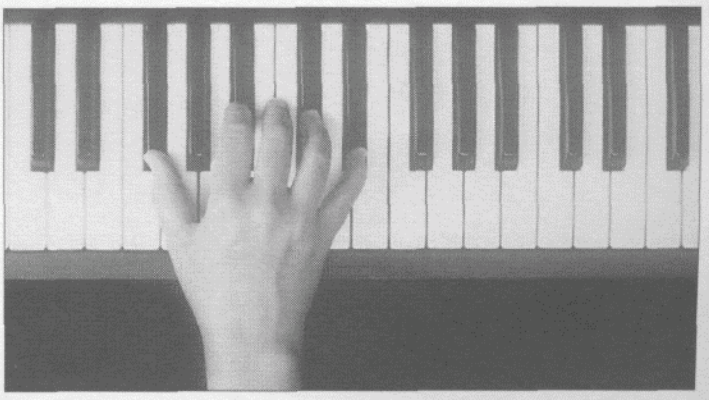


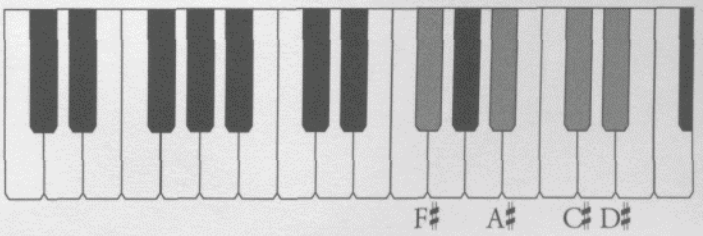
F♯sus4 *second inversion*



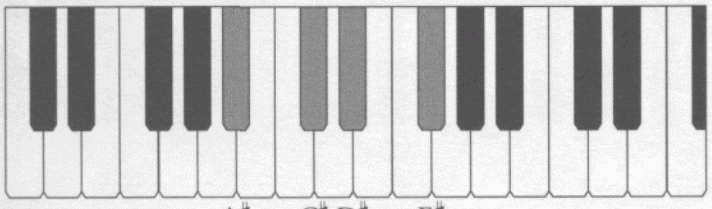


F♯6

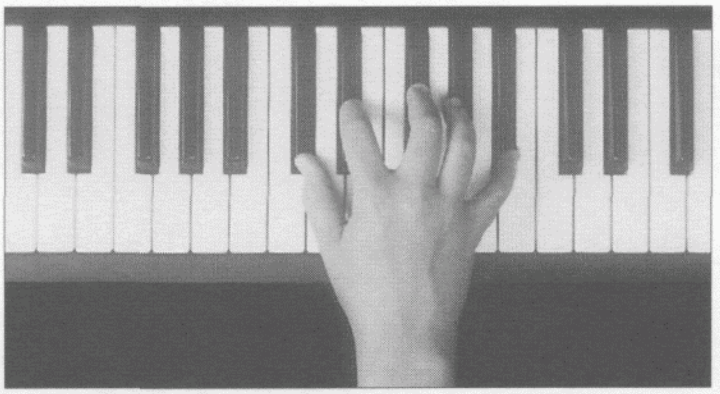




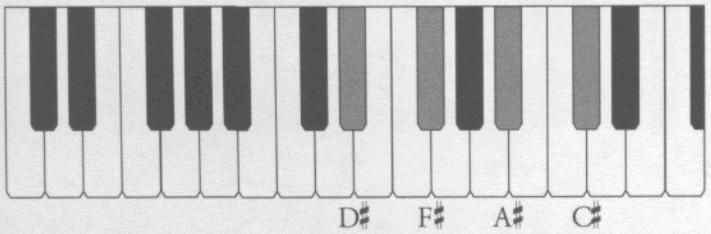
F♯6 *first inversion*



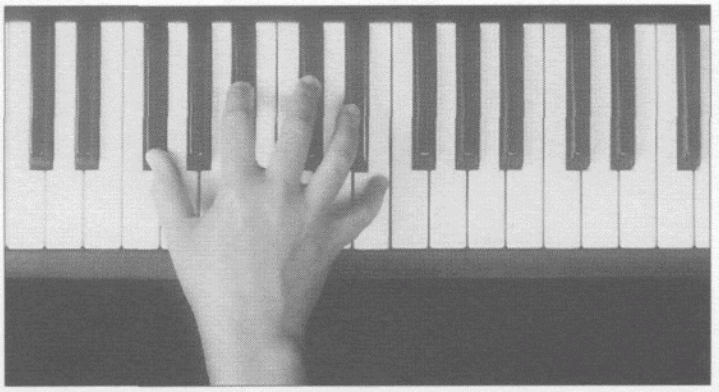
F♯6 *second inversion*

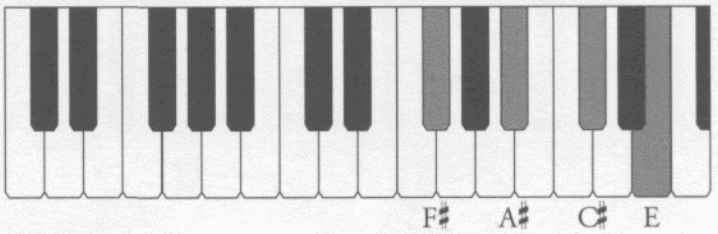


F♯6 *third inversion*

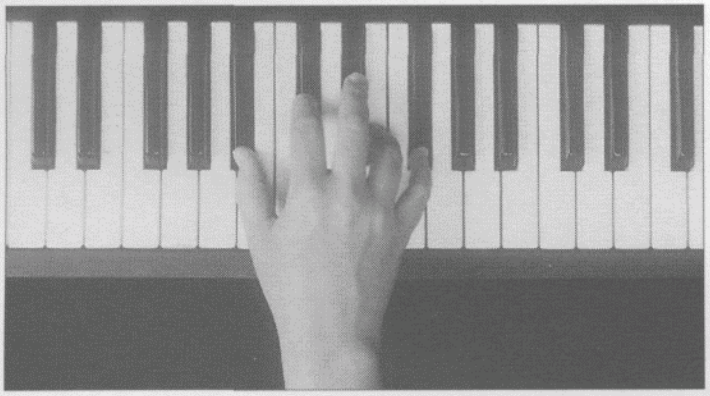


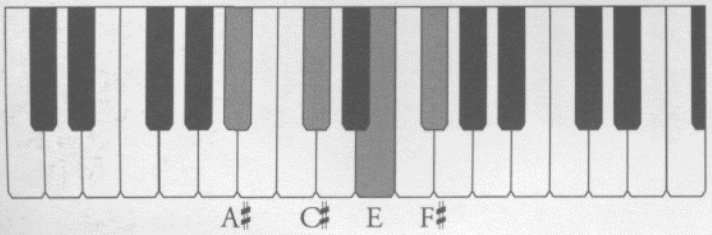
F♯7



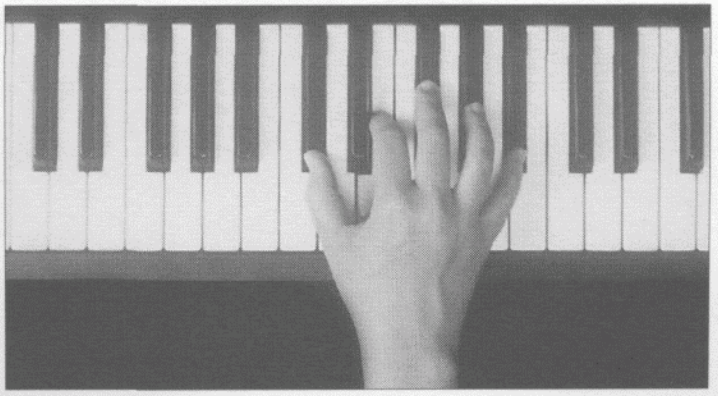


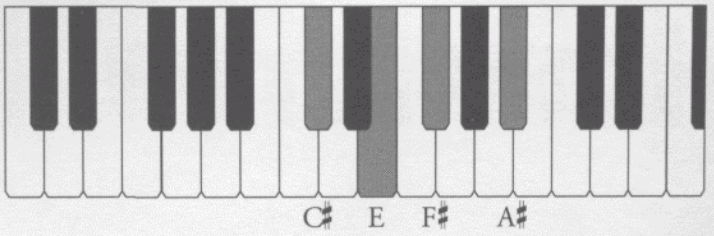
F♯7 *first inversion*



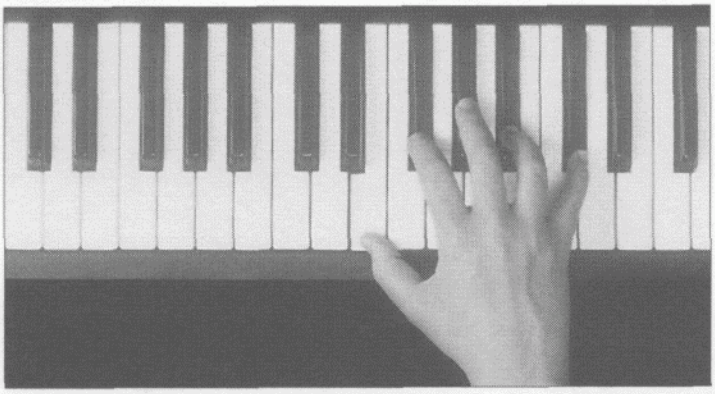


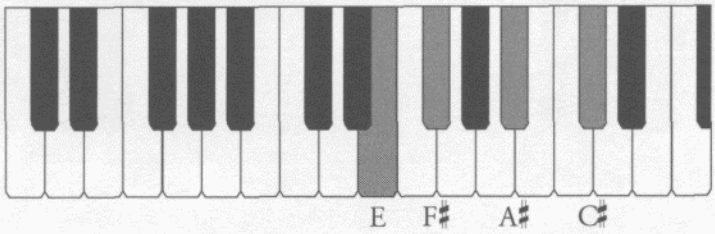
F♯7 *second inversion*



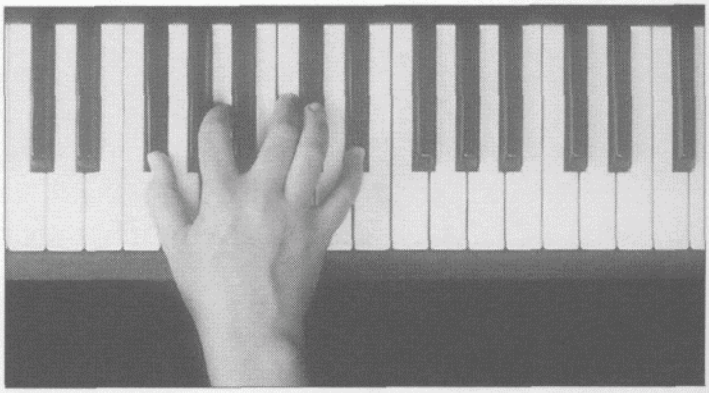


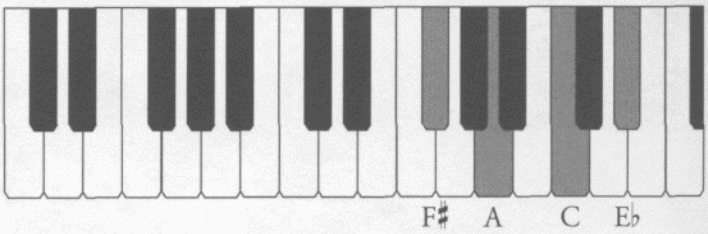
F♯7 *third inversion*



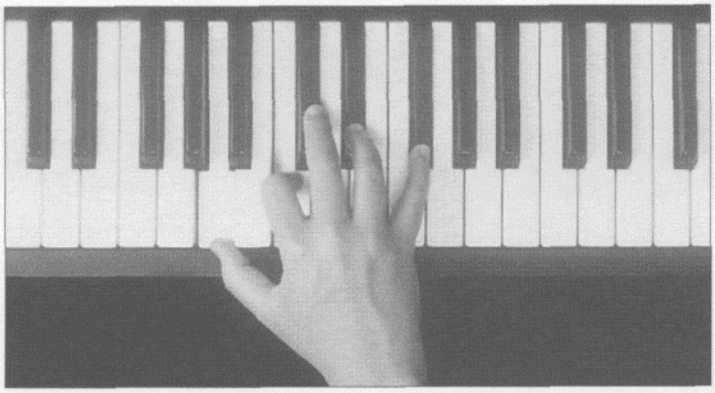


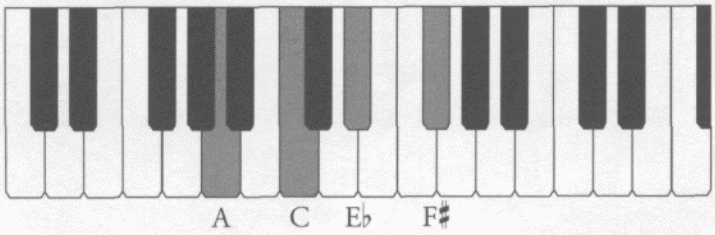
F♯°7



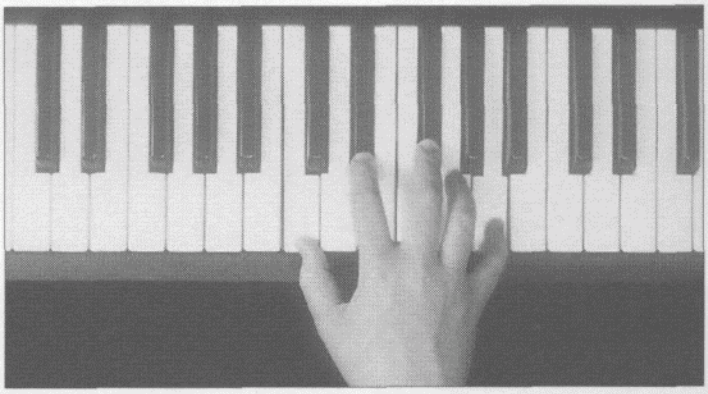


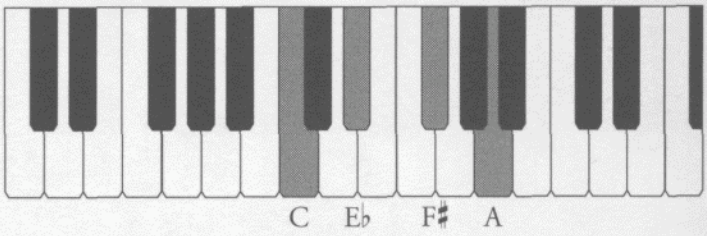
F♯°7 *first inversion*



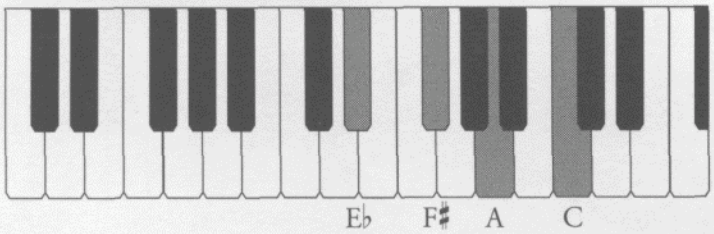


F♯°7 *second inversion*

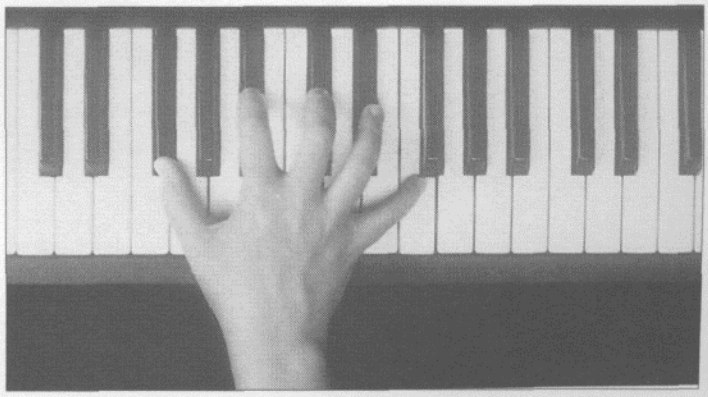


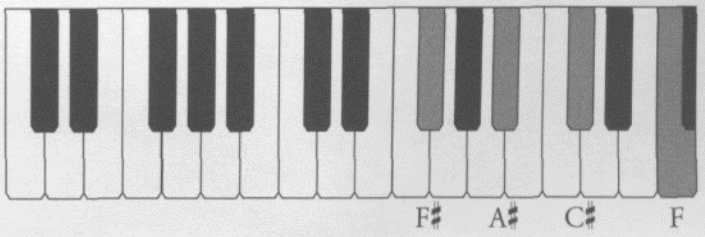


F♯°7 *third inversion*

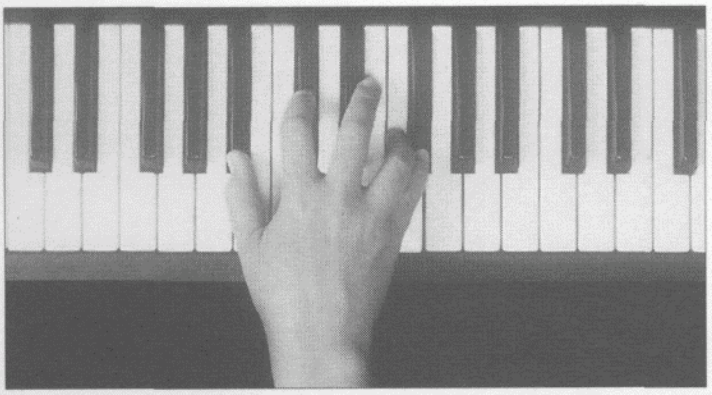


F♯ major7

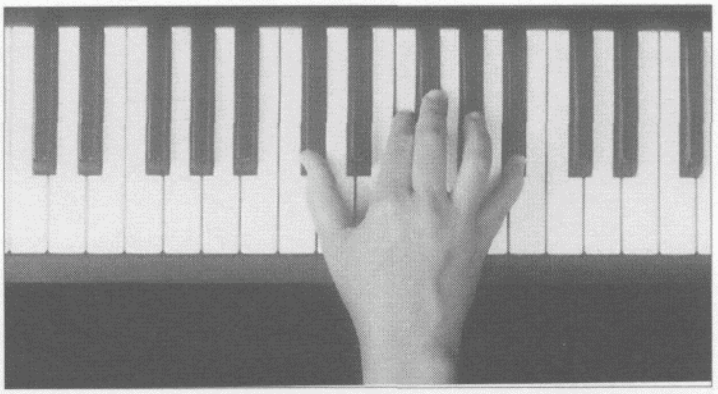


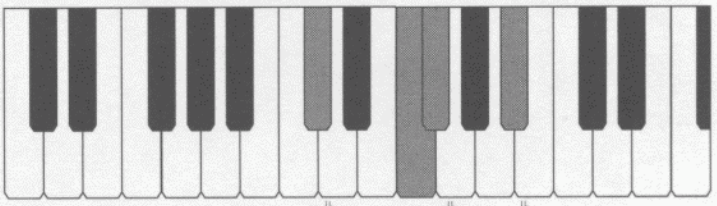


F♯ major7 *first inversion*

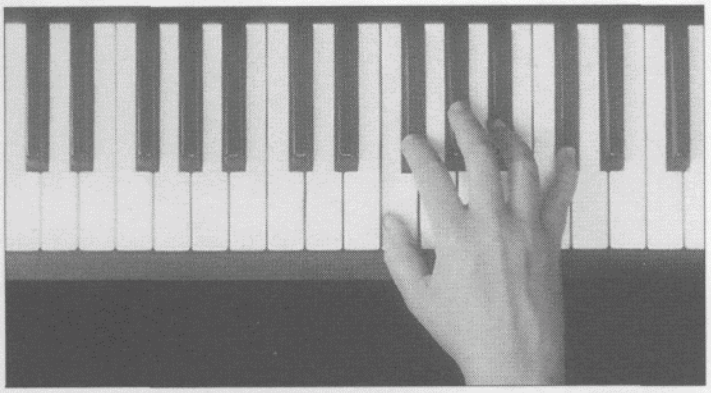


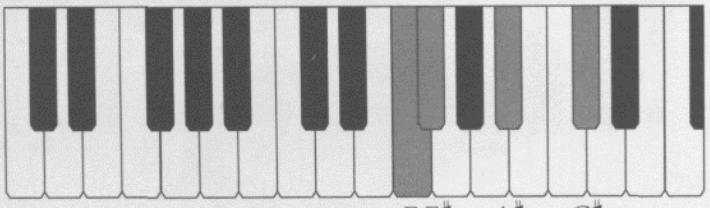
F♯ major7 *second inversion*



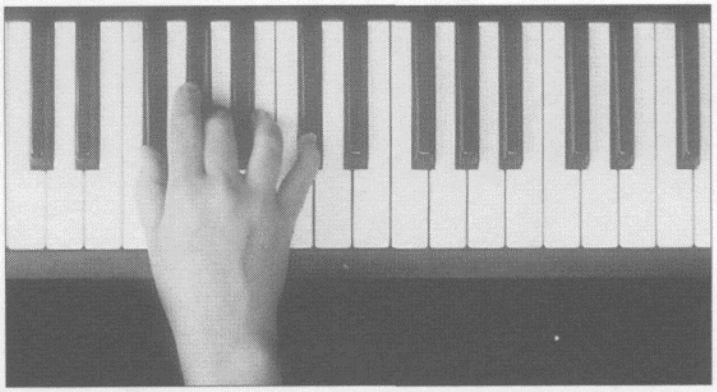


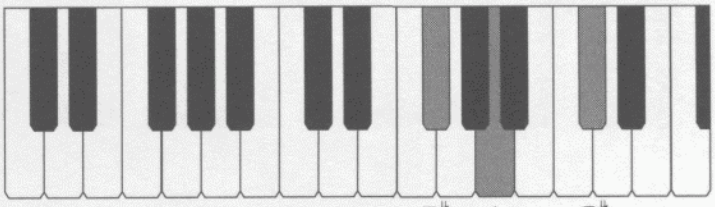
F♯ major7 *third inversion*



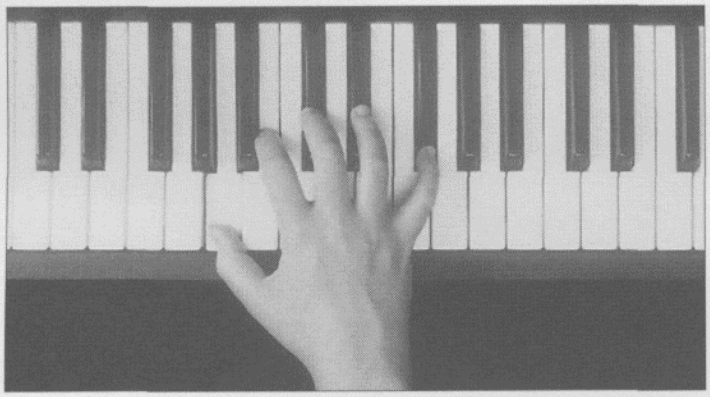


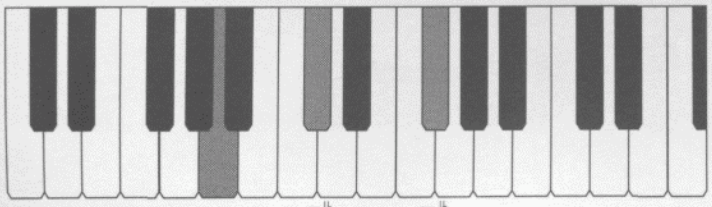
F♯ minor



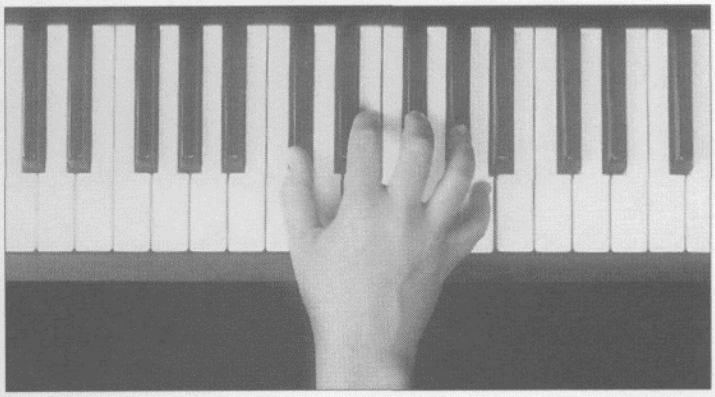


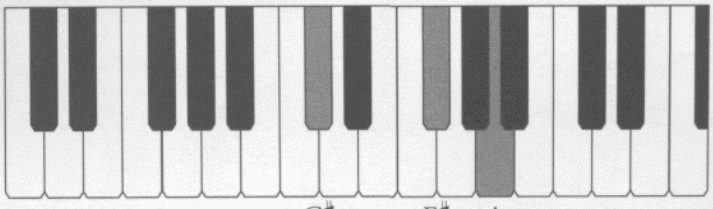
F♯ minor *first inversion*



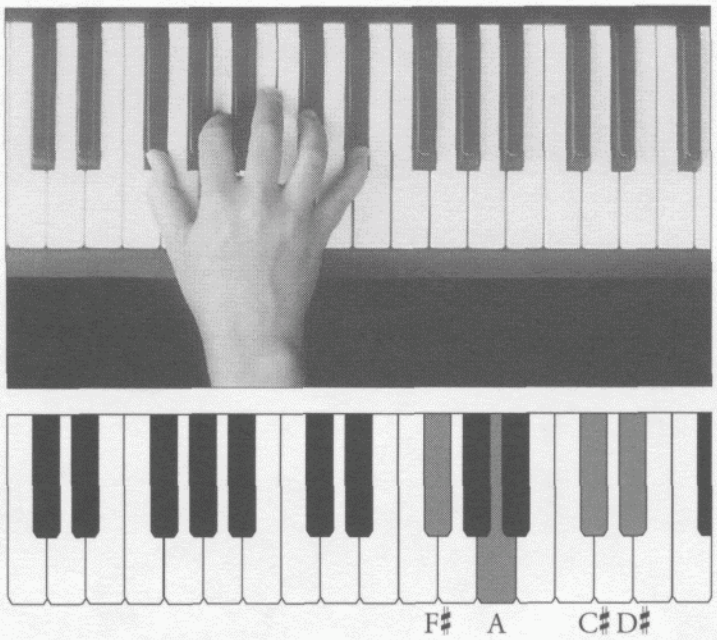


F♯ minor *second inversion*

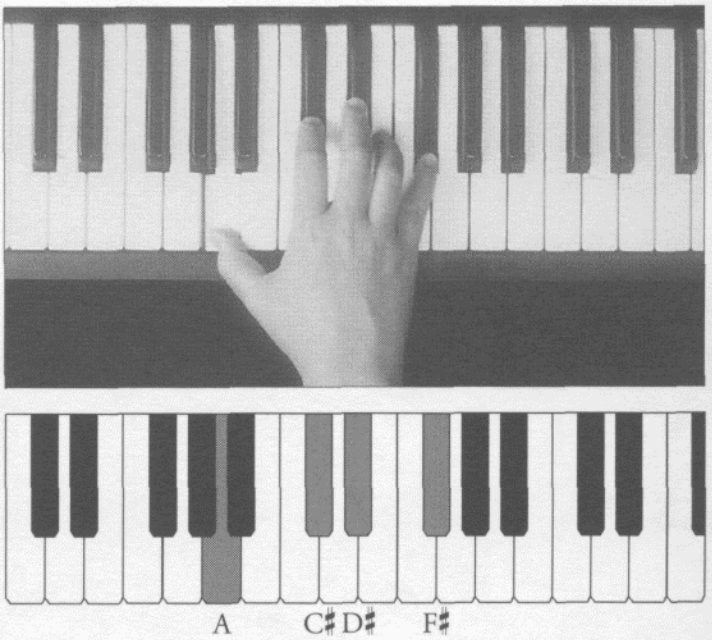




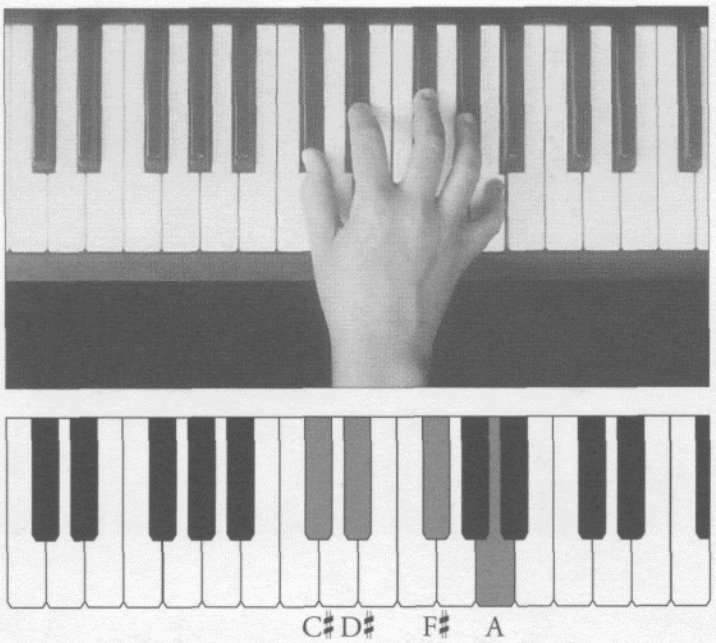
F♯ minor6



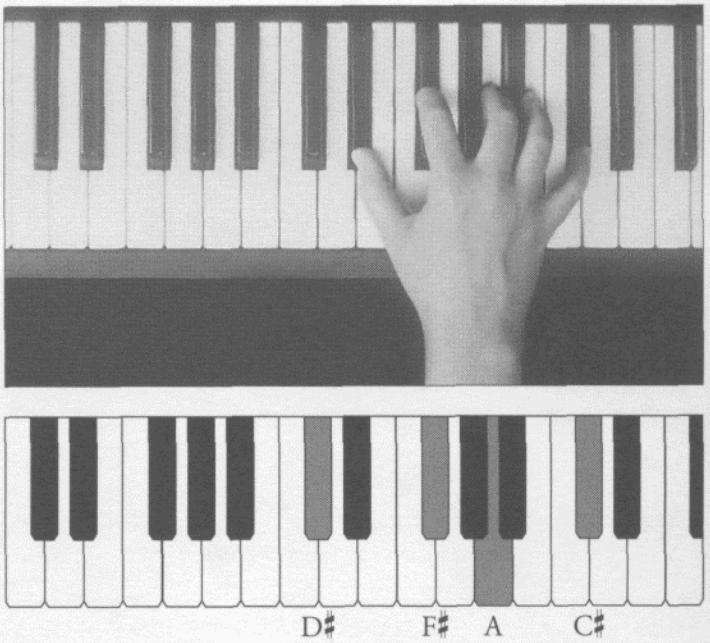
F♯ minor6 *first inversion*



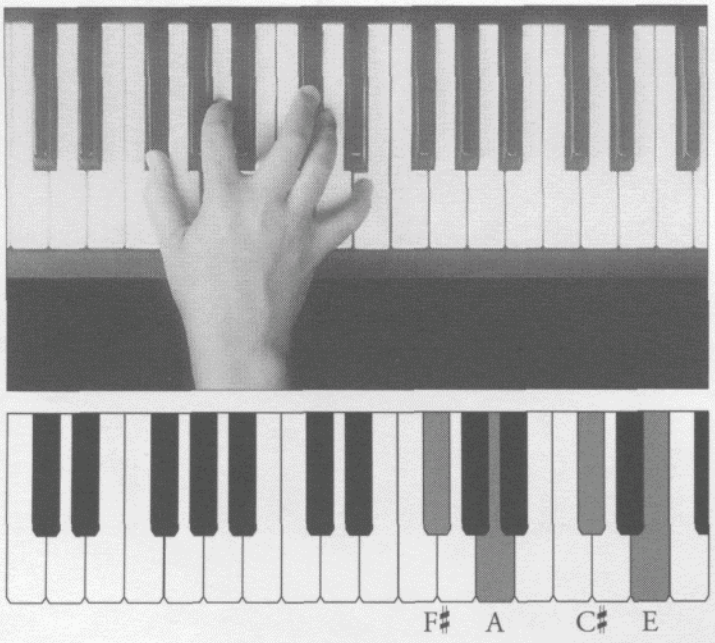
F♯ minor6 *second inversion*



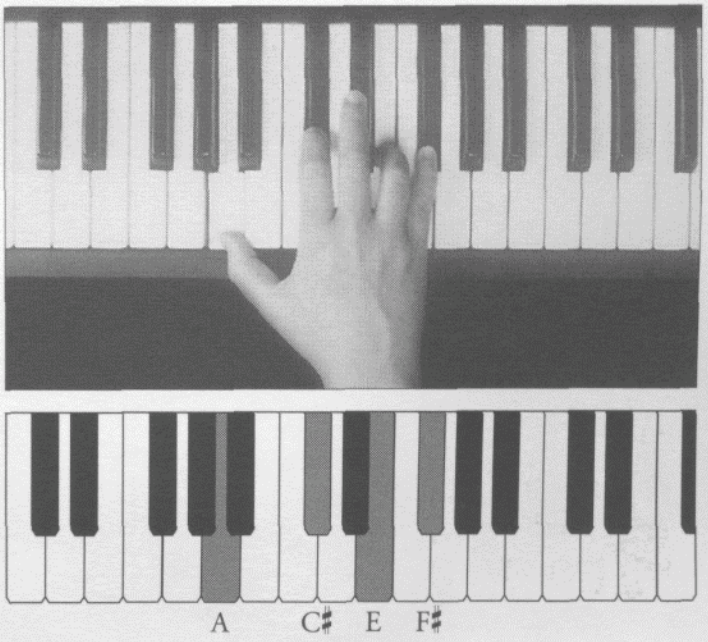
F♯ minor6 *third inversion*



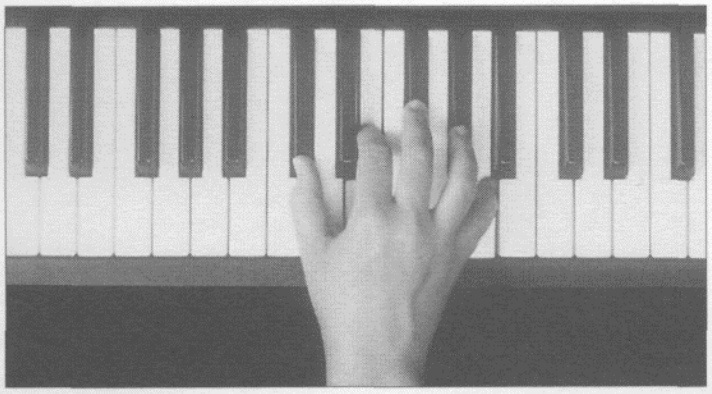
F♯ minor7



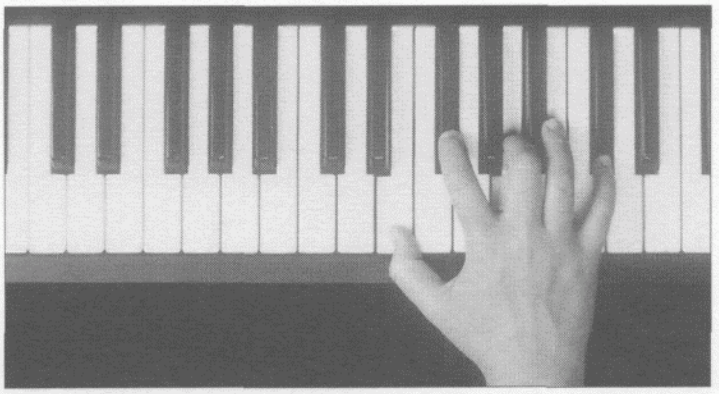
F♯ minor7 *first inversion*



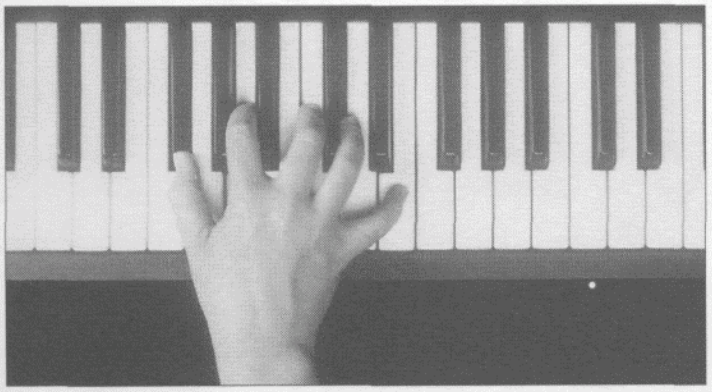
F♯ minor7 *second inversion*

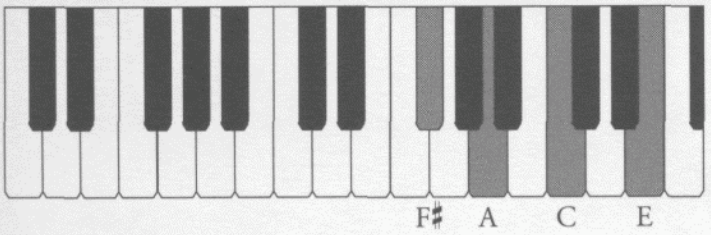


F♯ minor7 *third inversion*

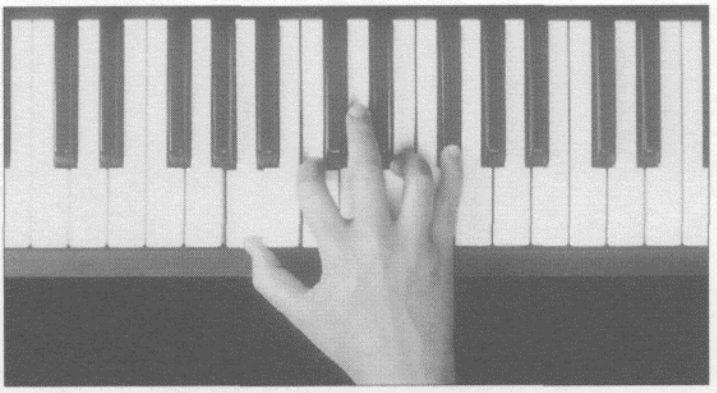


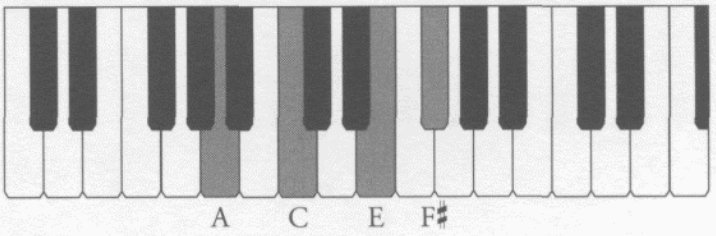
F♯ minor7♭5



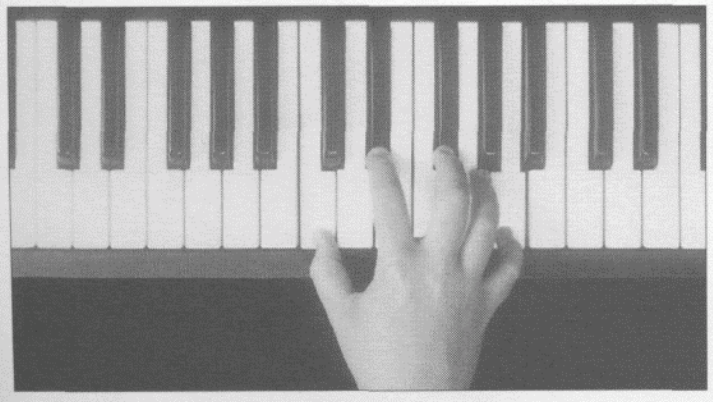


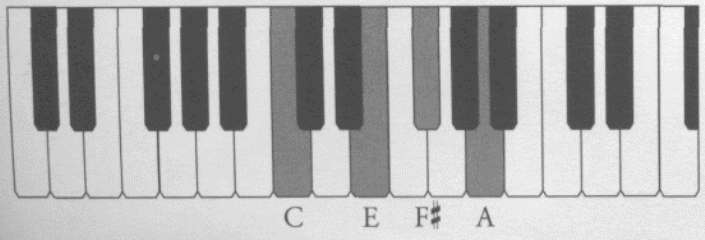
F♯ minor7♭5 *first inversion*



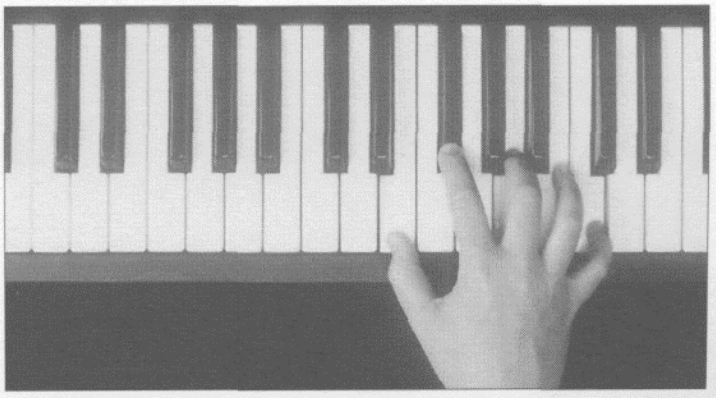


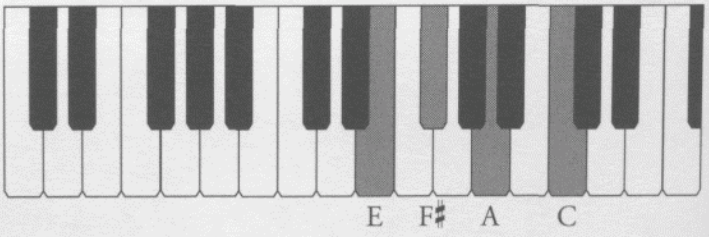
F♯ minor7♭5 *second inversion*



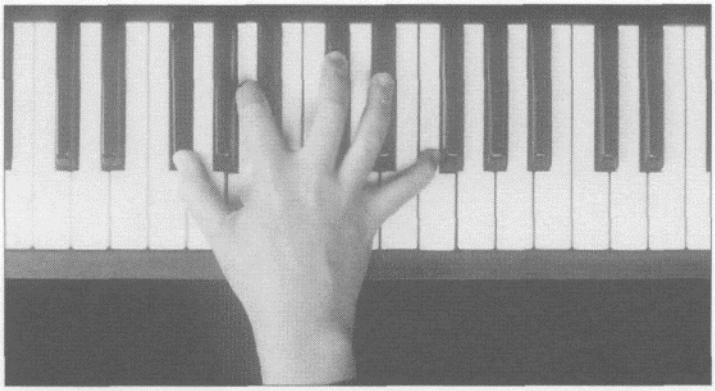


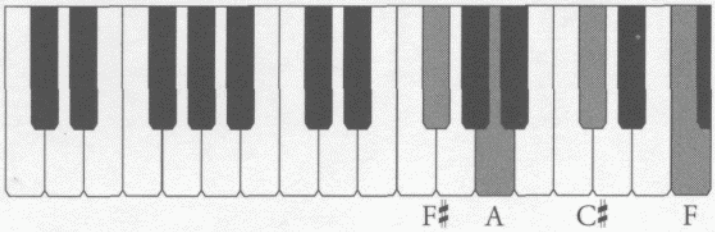
F♯ minor7♭5 *third inversion*



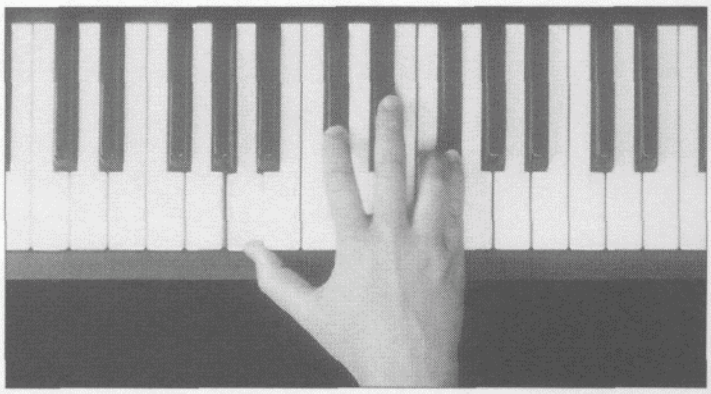


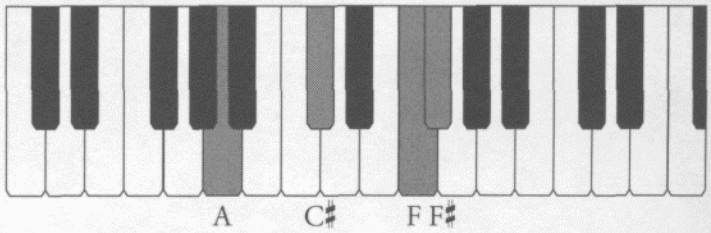
F♯ minor (major7)



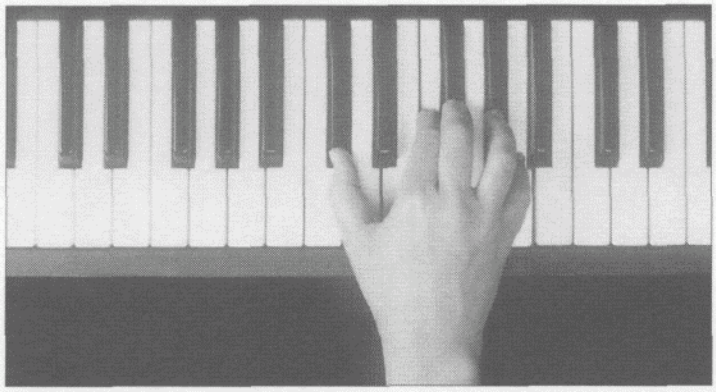


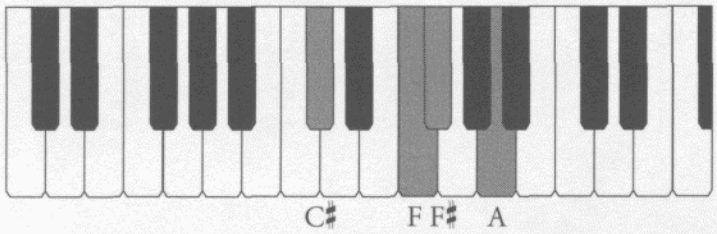
F♯ minor (major7) *first inversion*



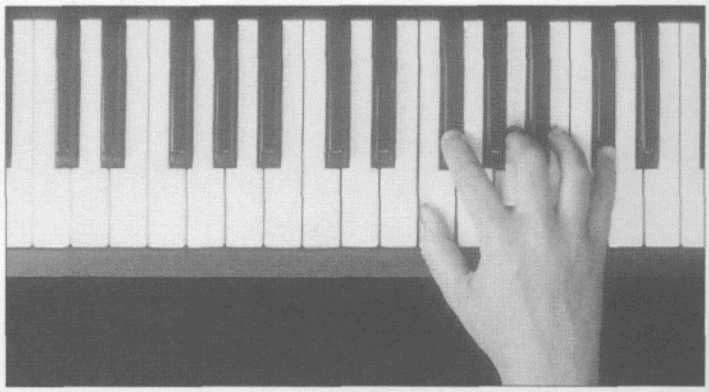


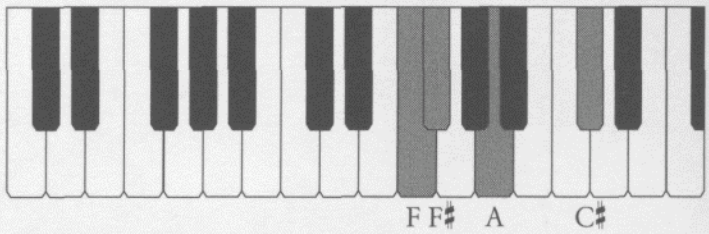
F♯ minor (major7) *second inversion*





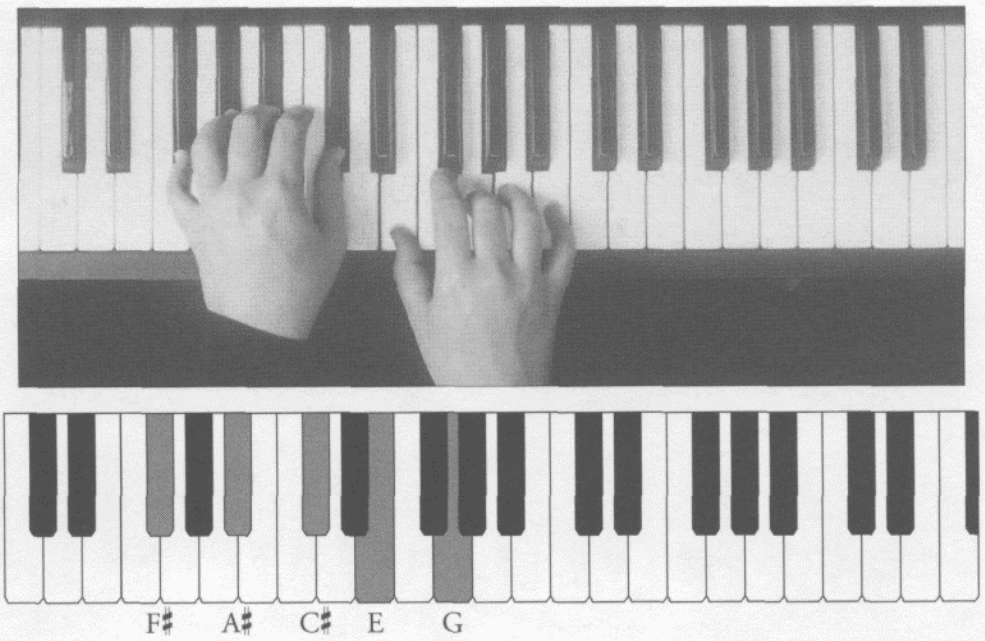
F♯ minor (major7) *third inversion*



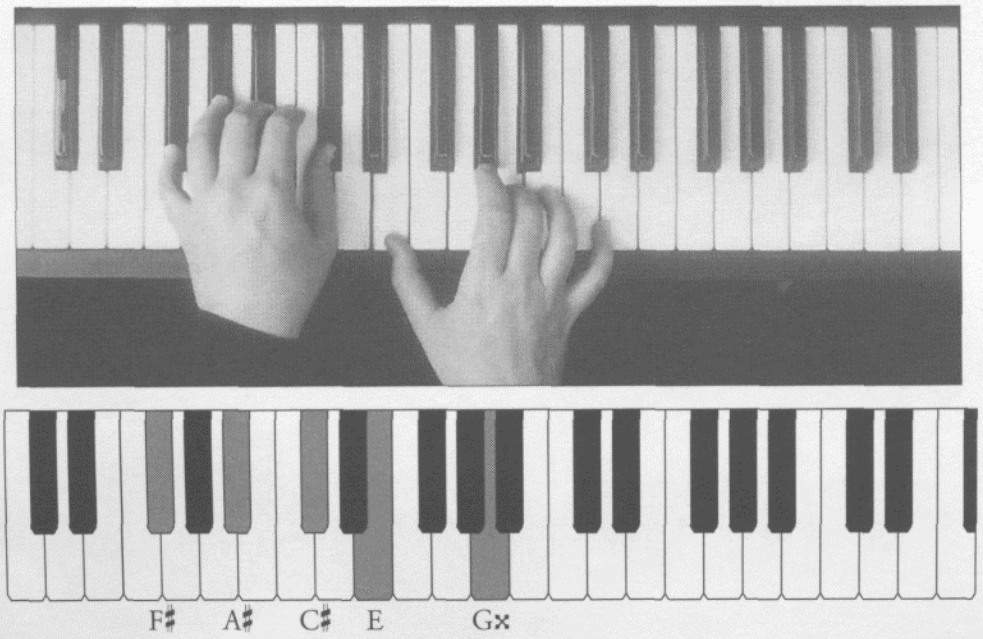


F♯ chords
using both hands

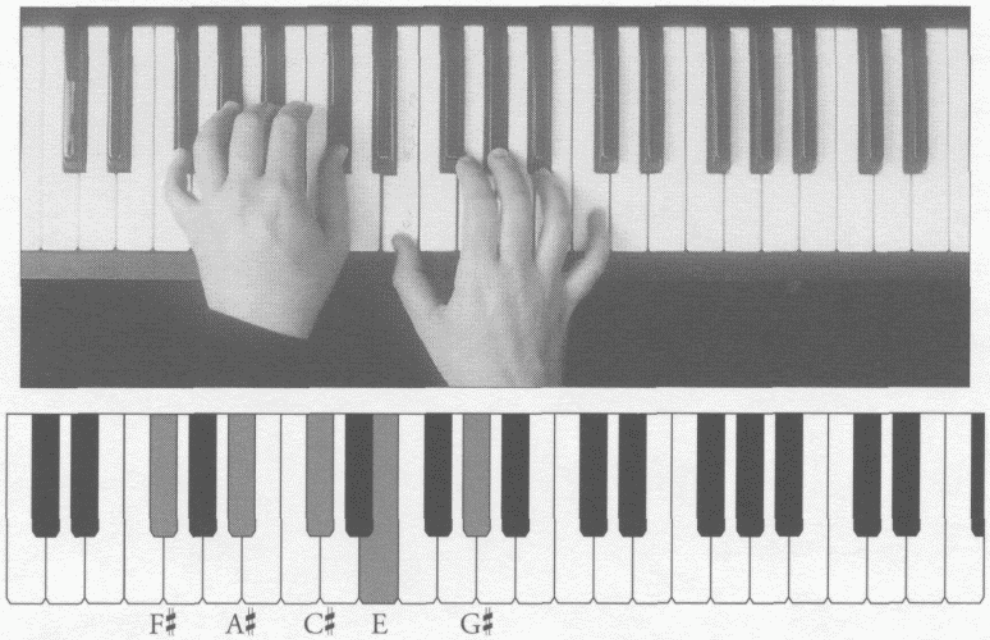
F♯7♭9



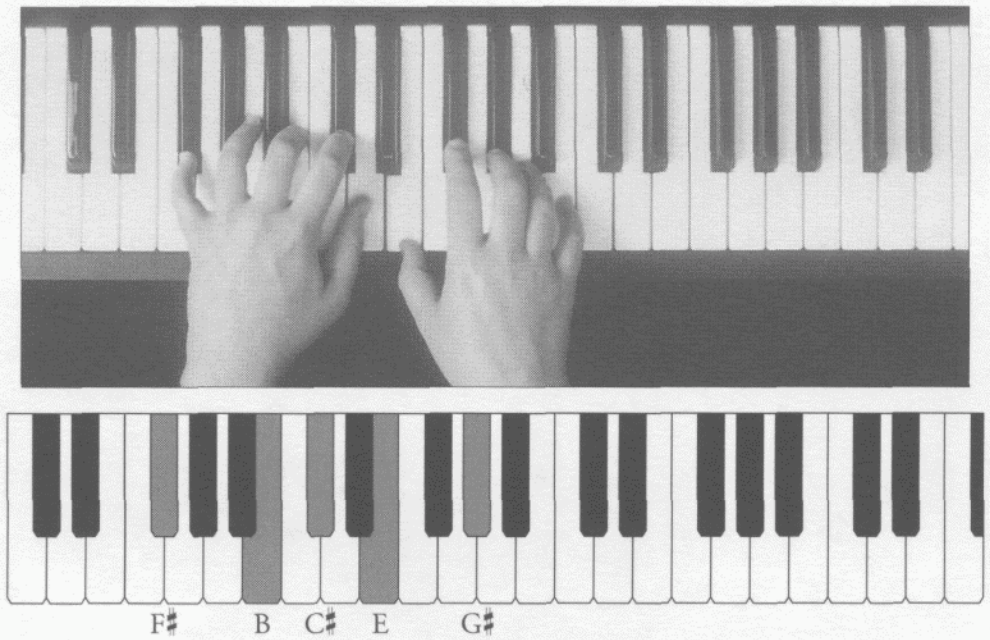
F♯7♯9



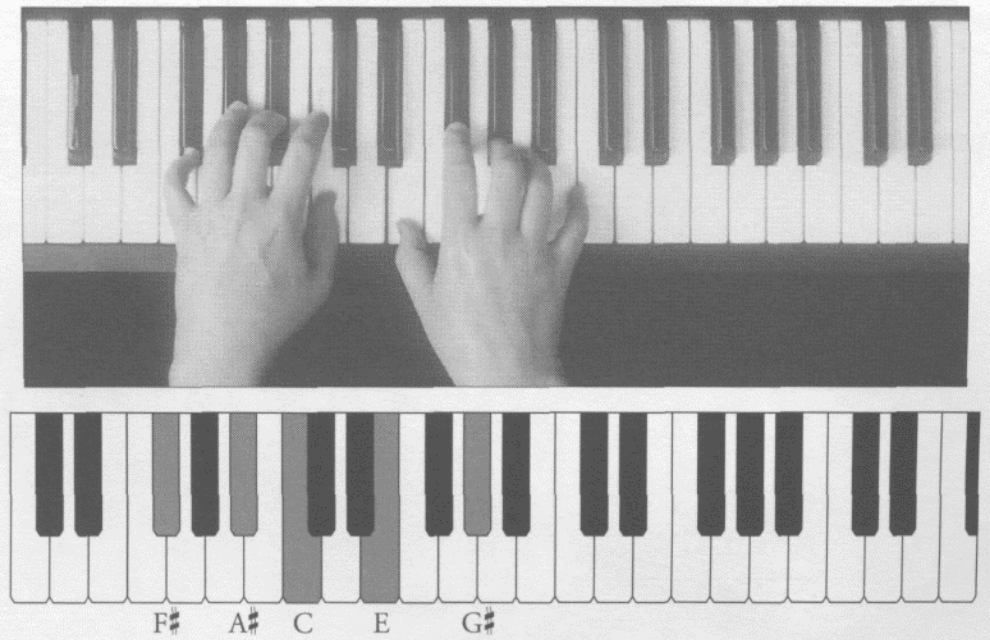
F♯9



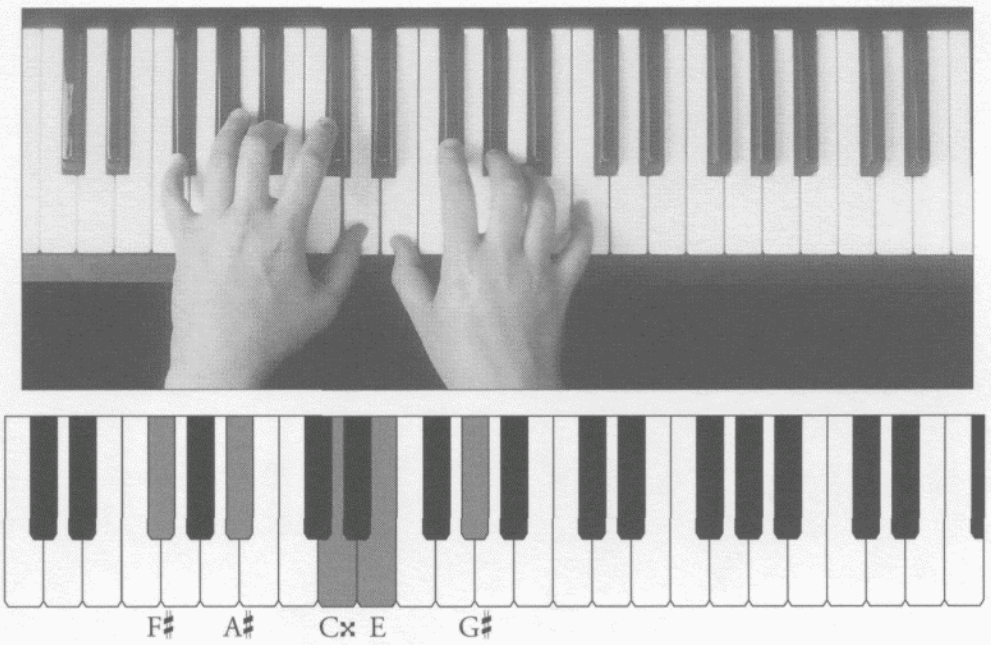
F♯9sus4



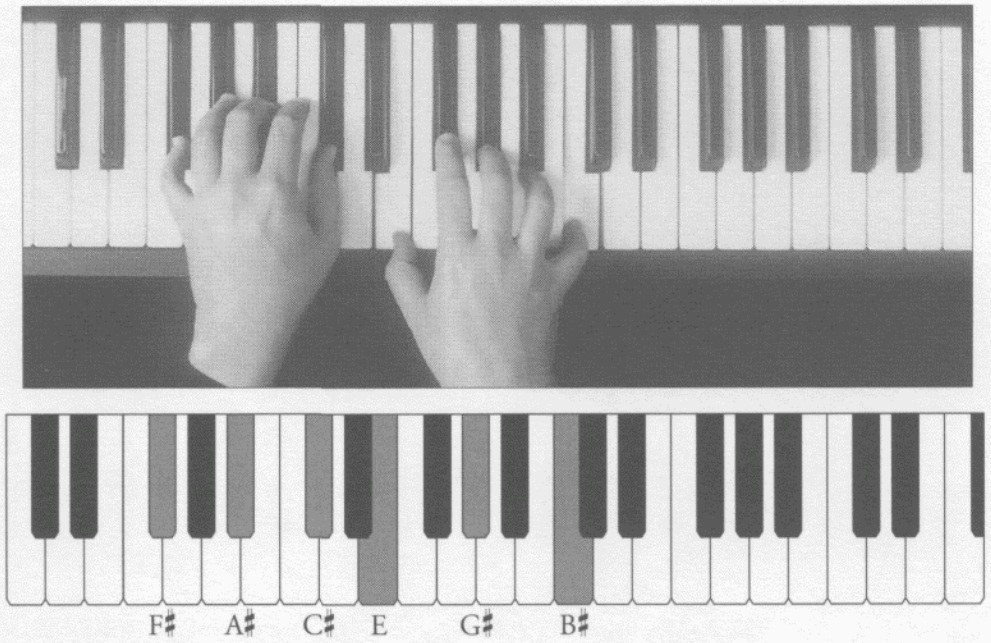
F♯9♭5



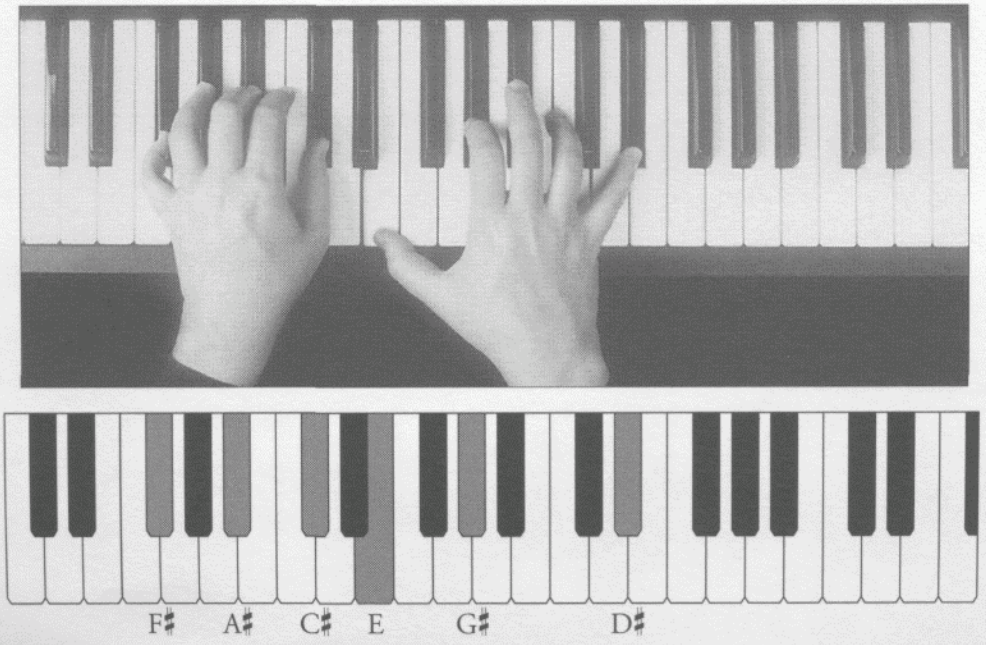
F♯9♯5



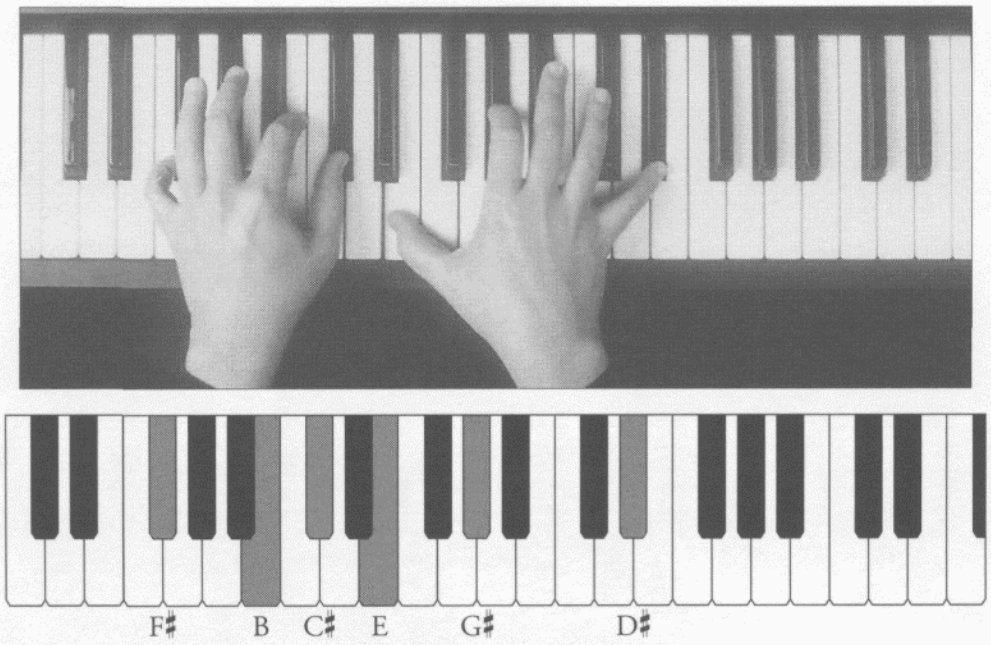
F♯9♯11



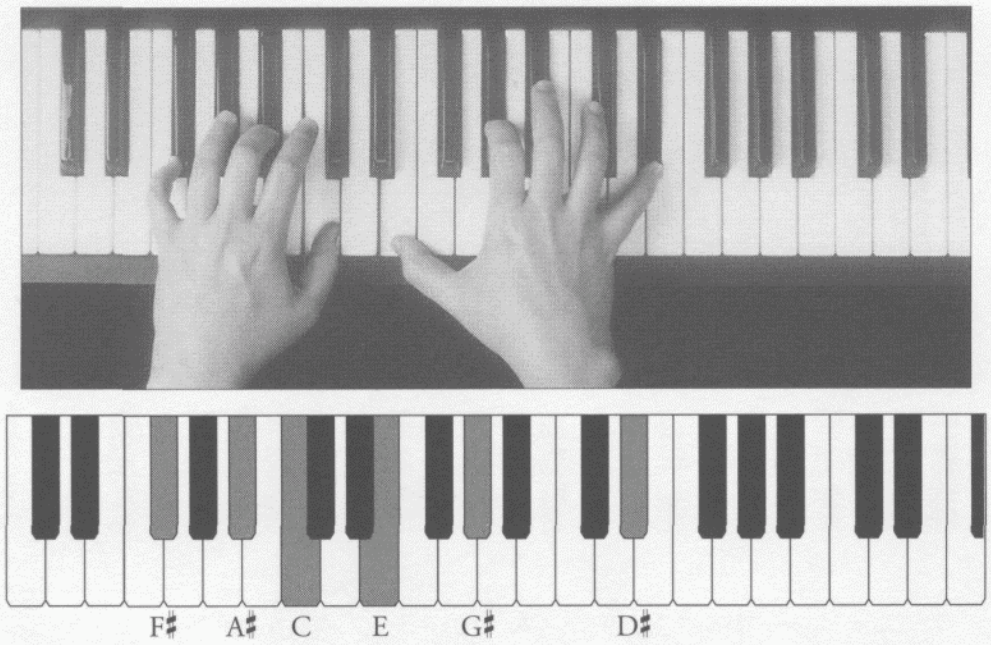
F♯13



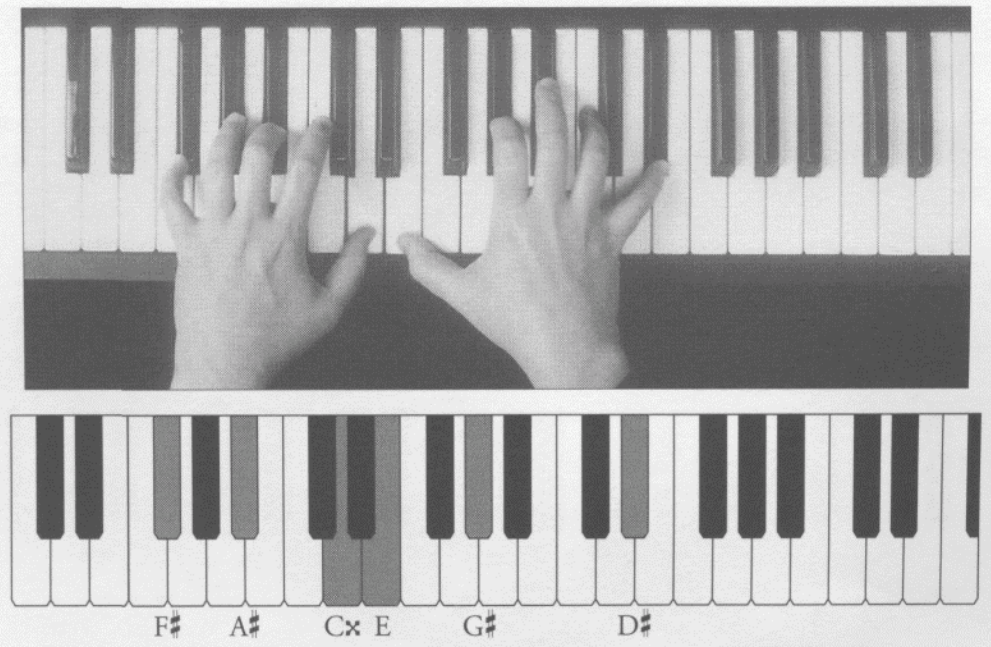
F♯13sus4



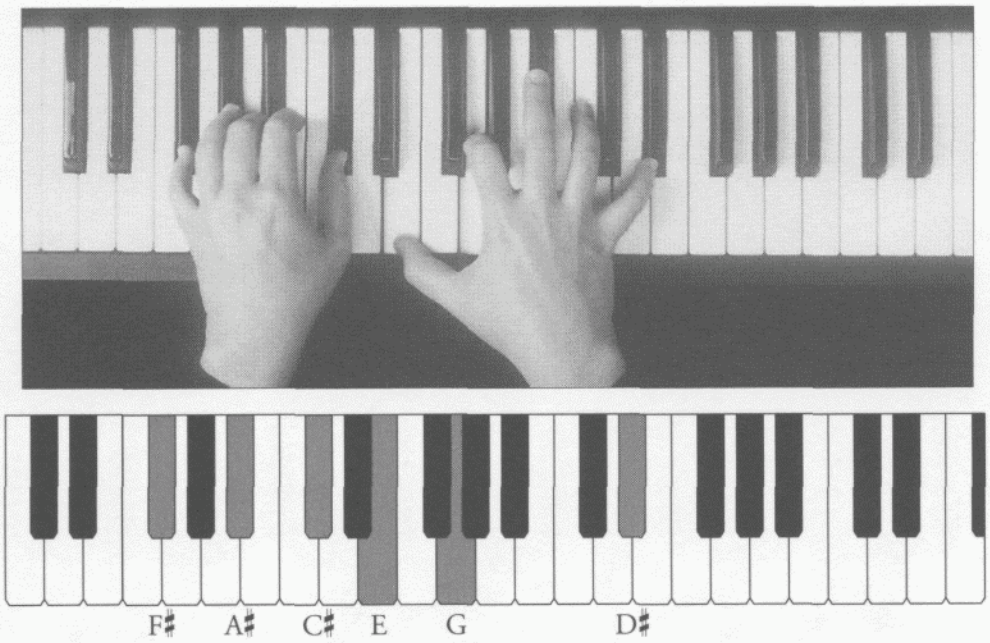
F♯13♭5



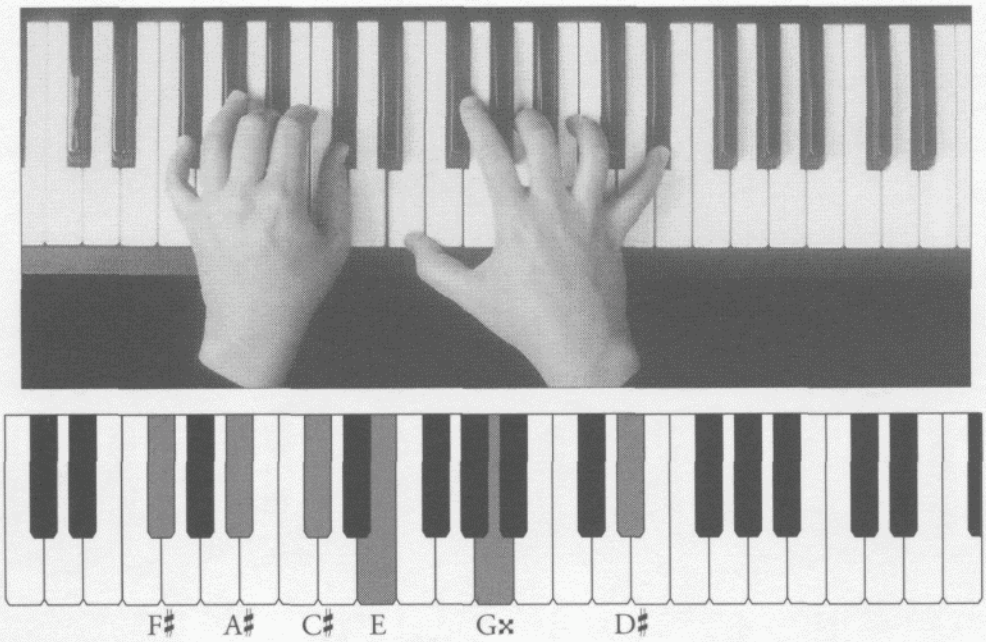
F♯13♯5



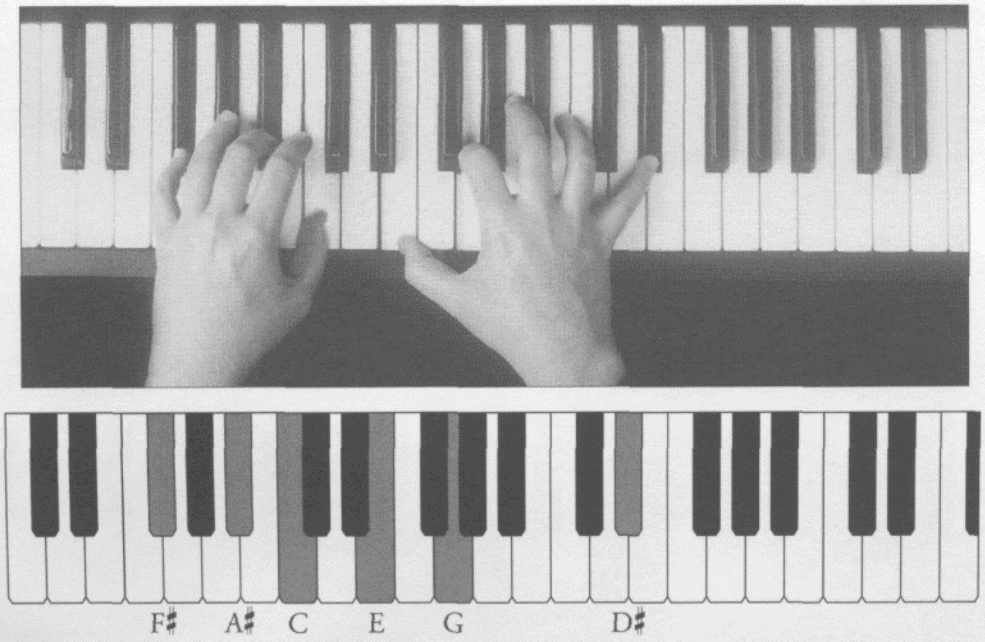
F♯13♭9



F♯13♯9



F♯13♭5♭9



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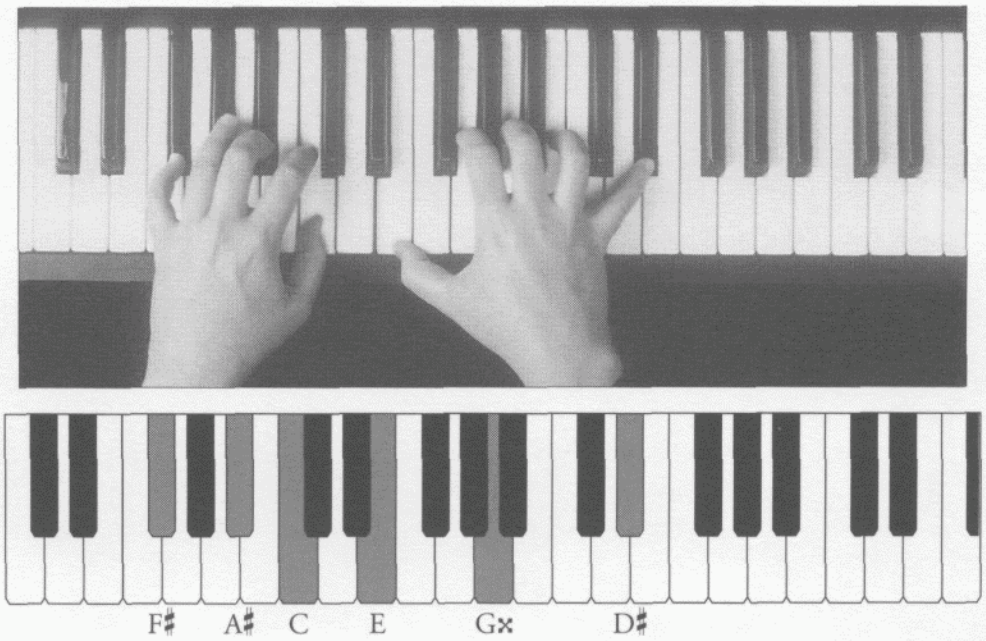
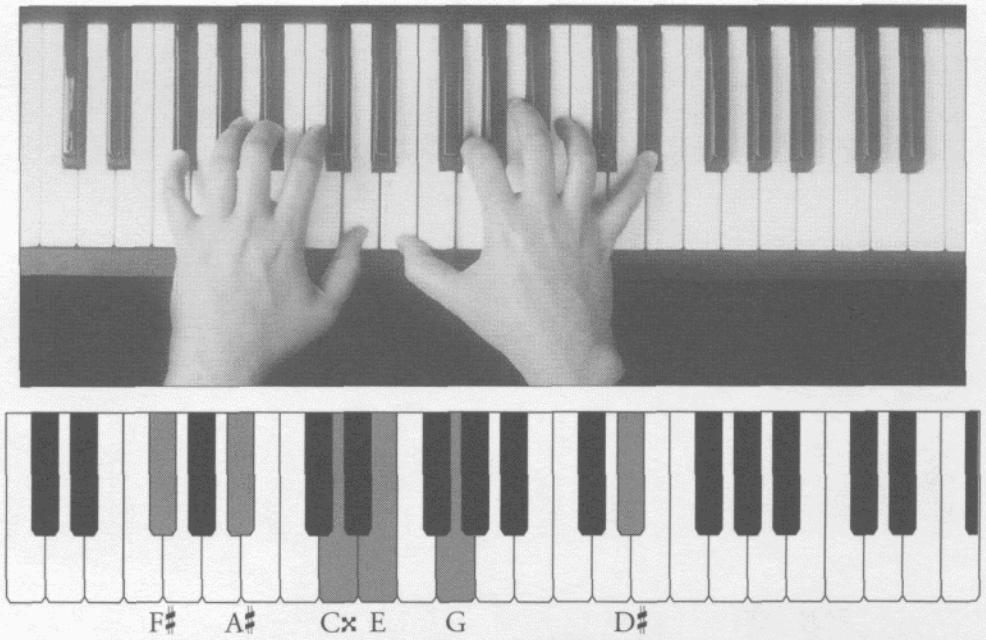
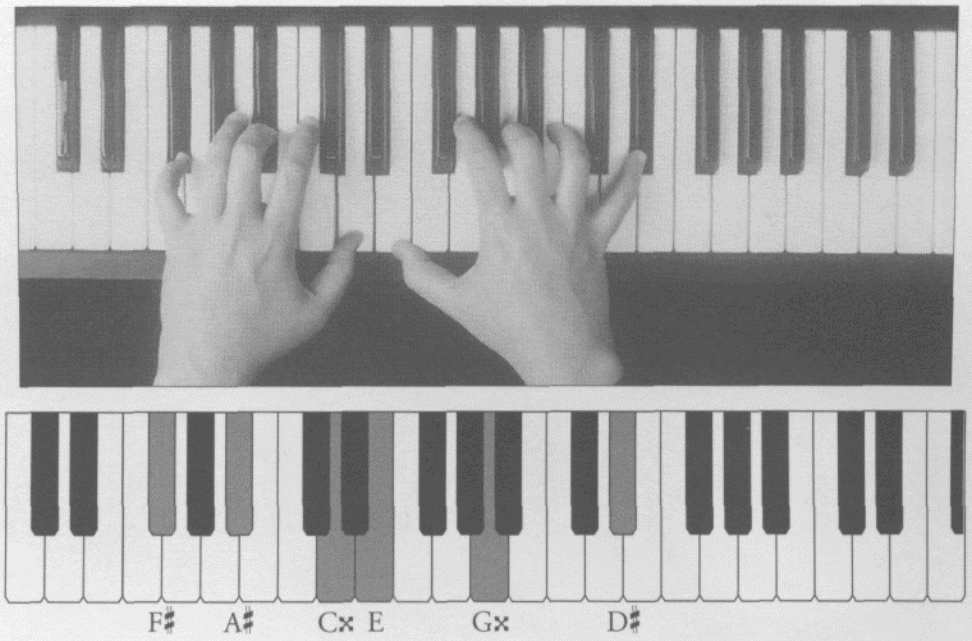


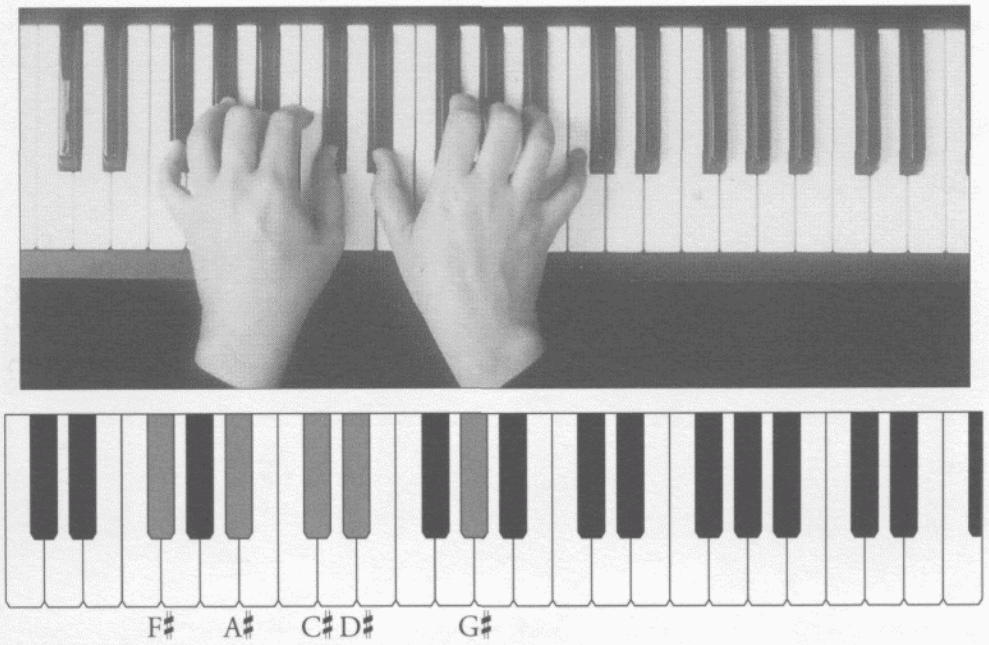
F♯13♯5♭9



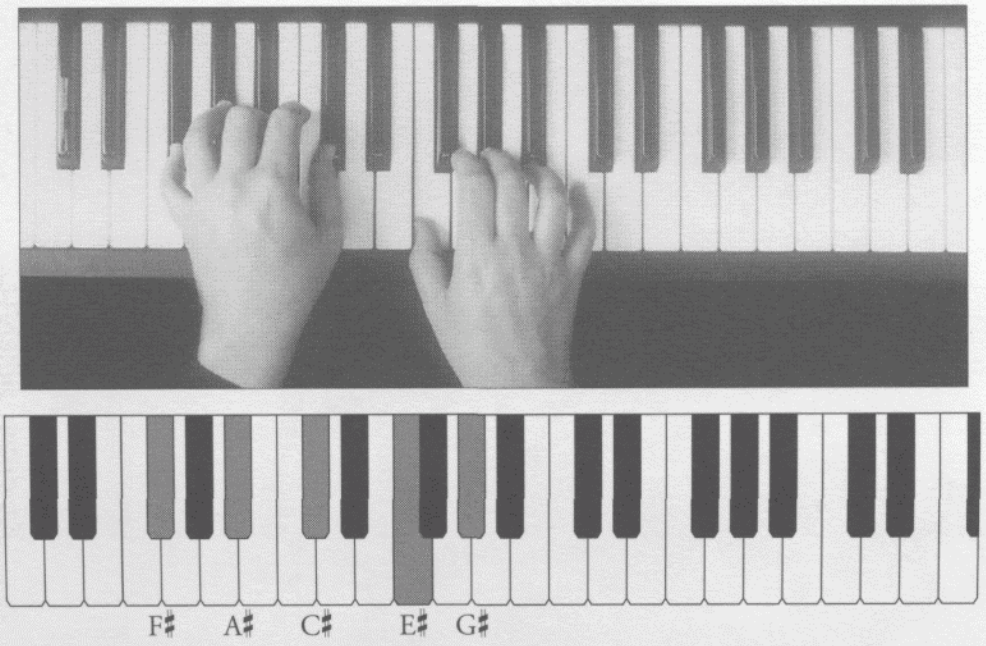
F♯13♯5♯9



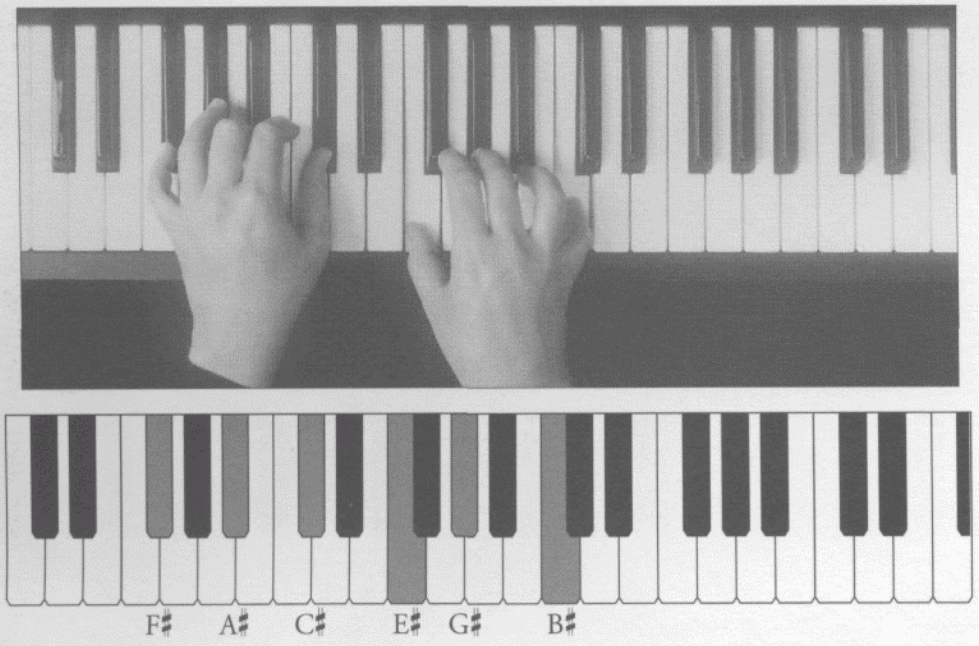
F♯ 6/9



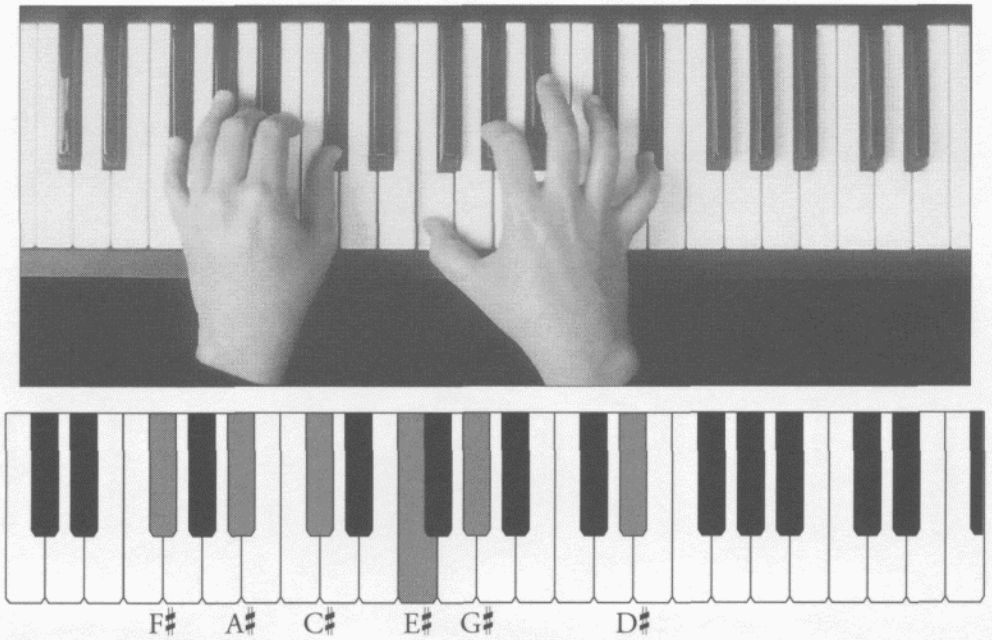
F♯ major9



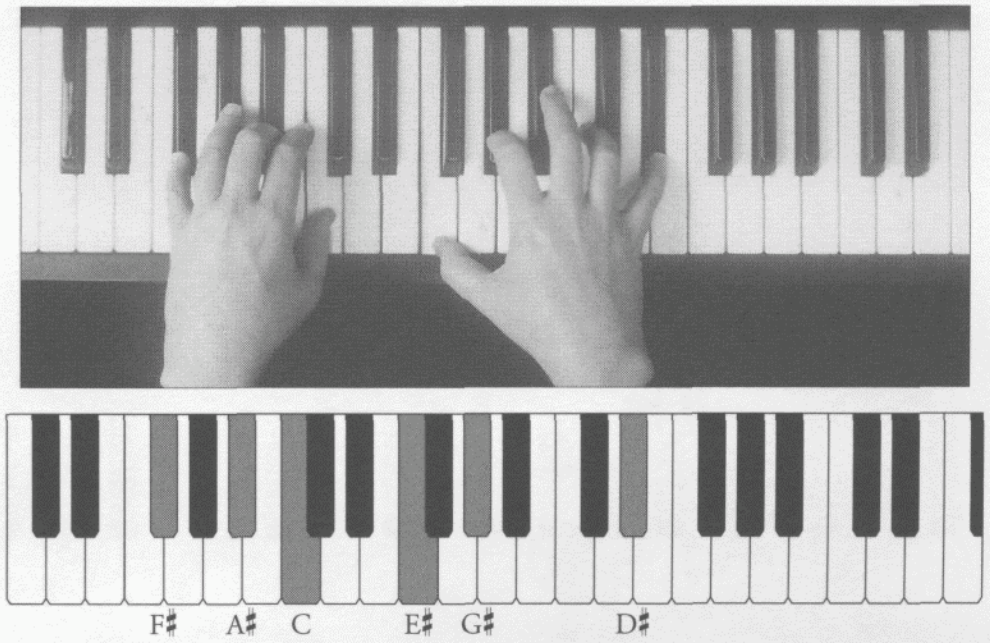
F♯ major9♯11



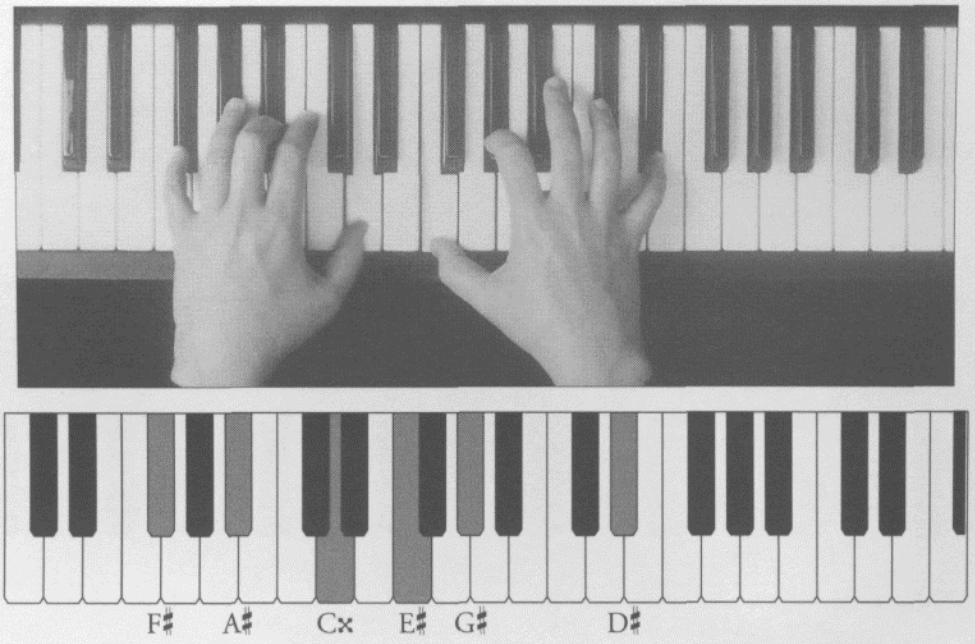
F♯ major13



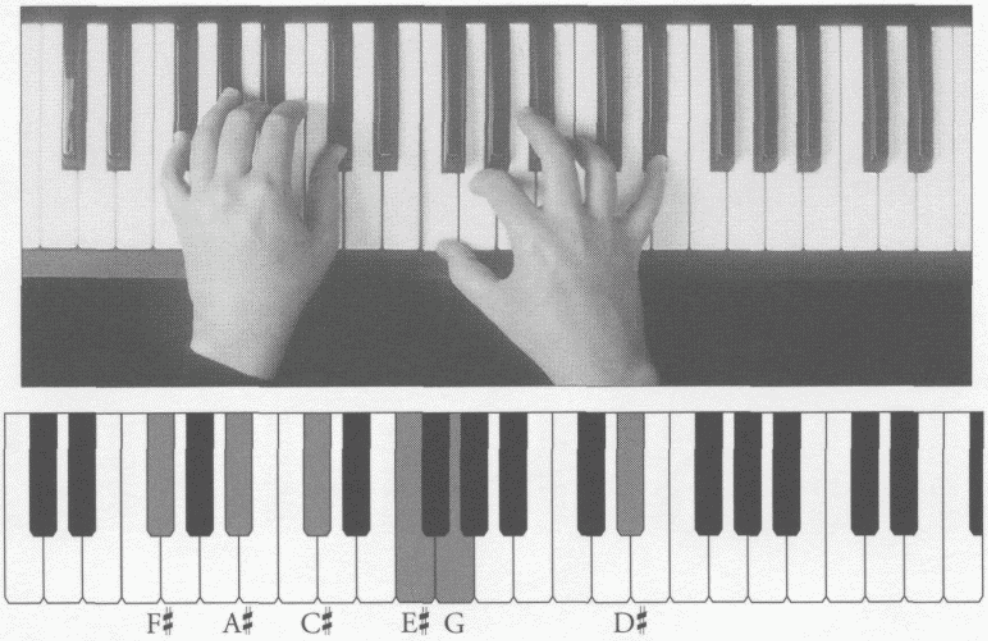
F♯ major13♭5



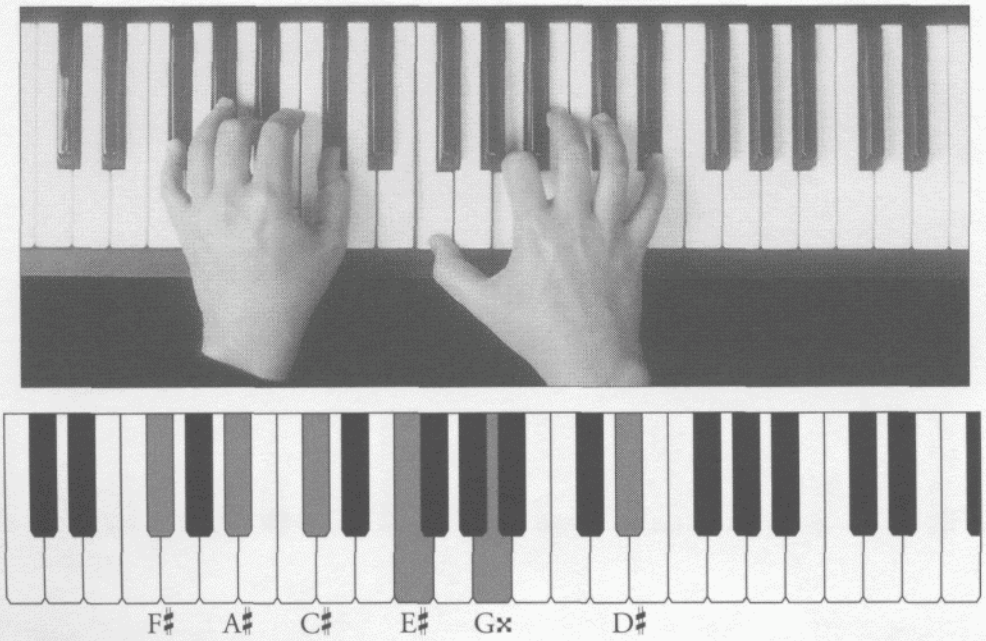
F♯ major13♯5



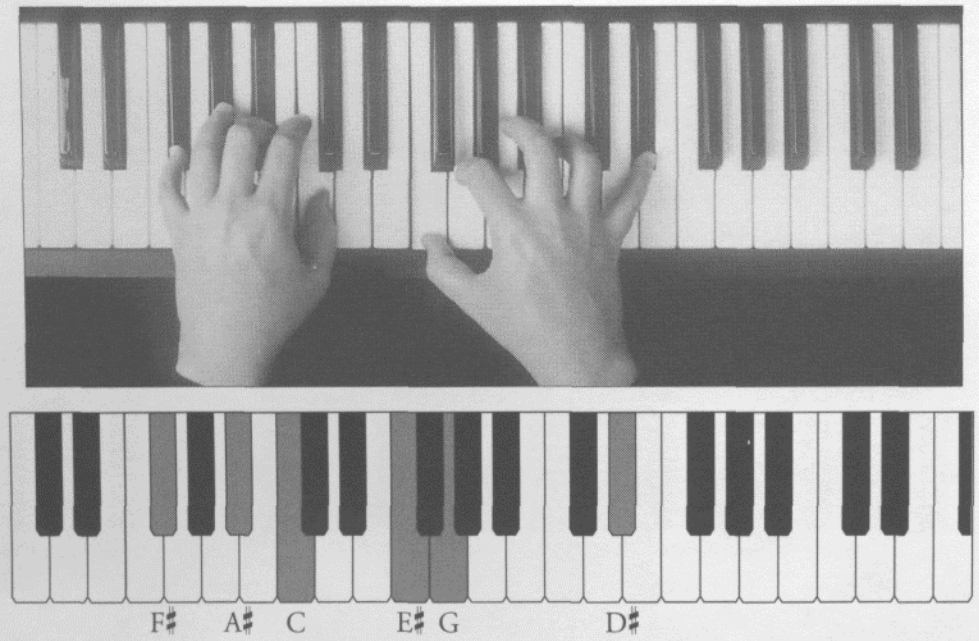
F♯ major13♭9



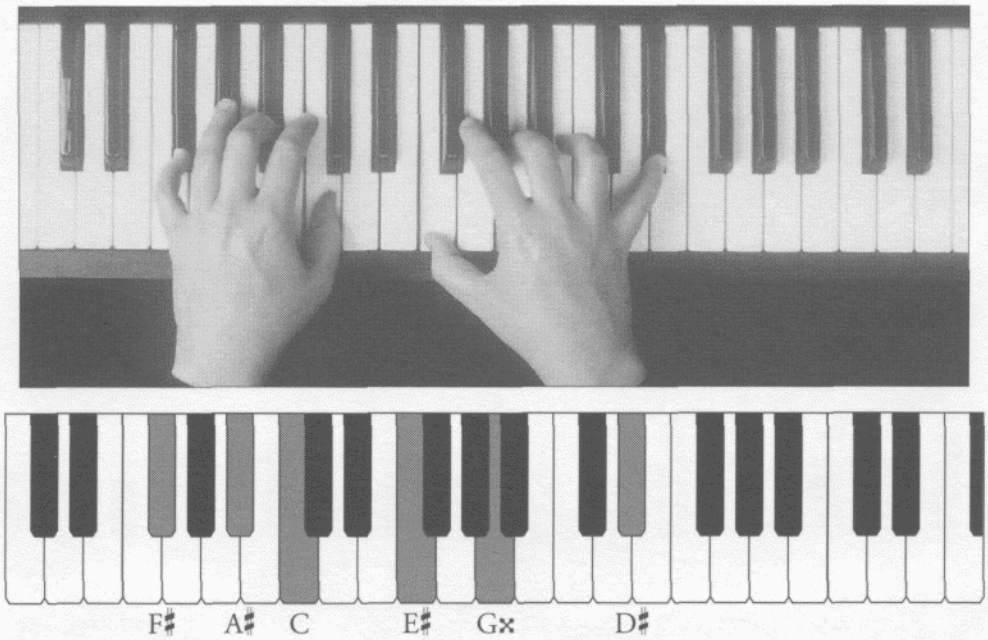
F♯ major13♯9



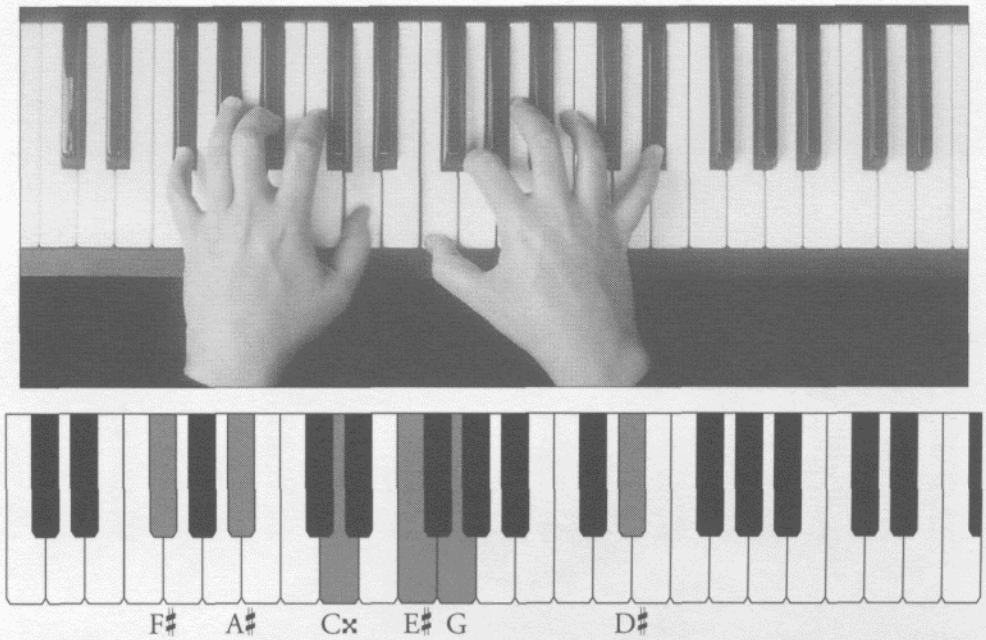
F♯ major13♭5♭9



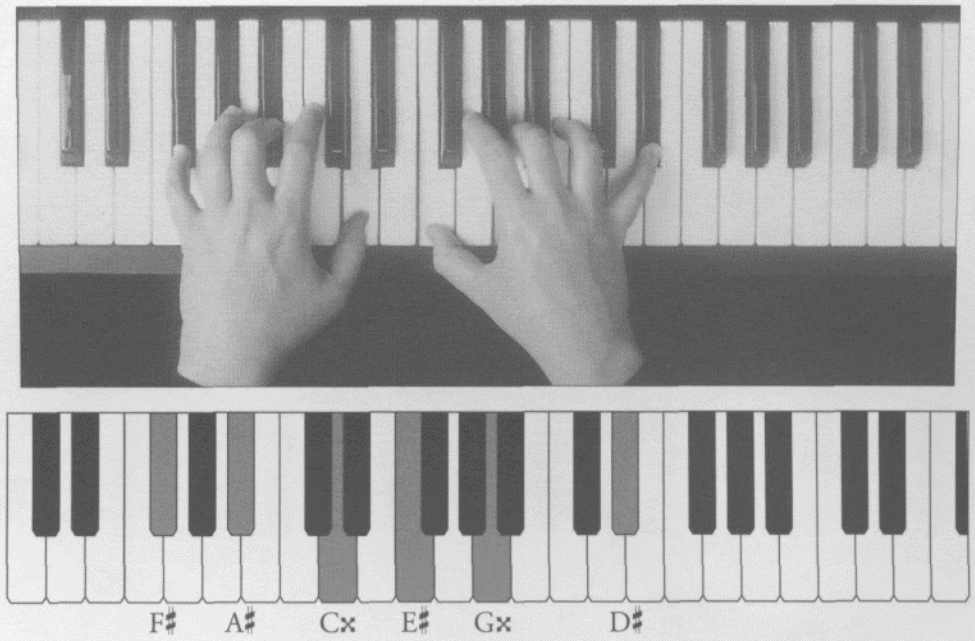
F♯ major13♭5♯9



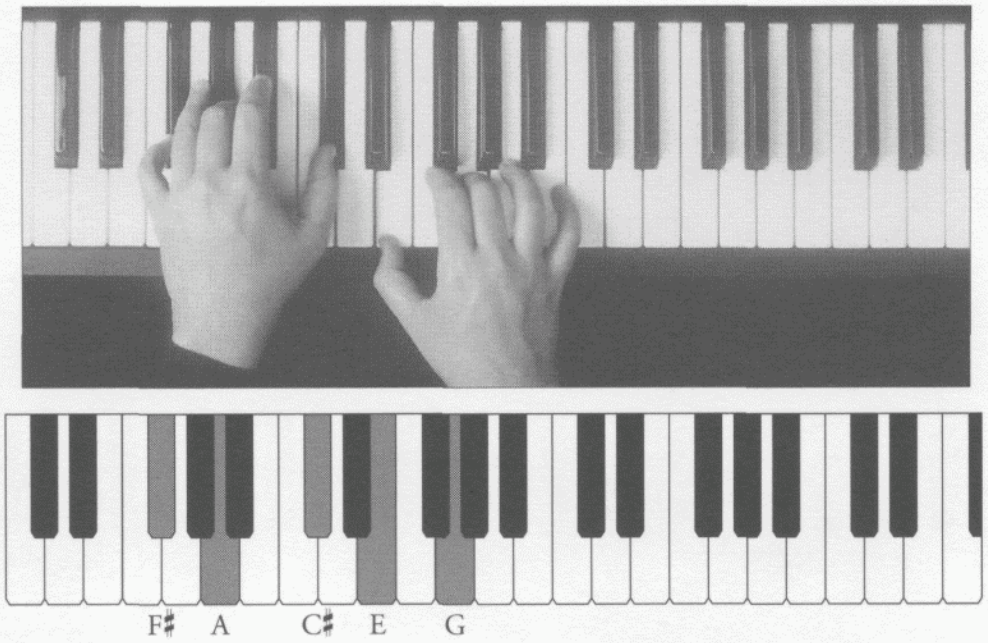
F♯ major13♯5♭9



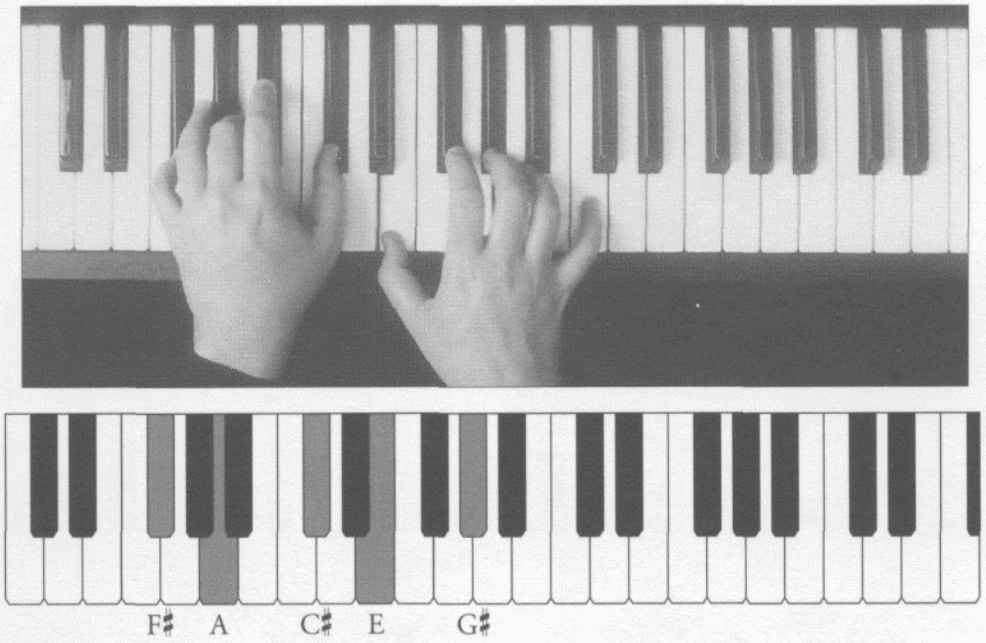
F♯ major13♯5♯9



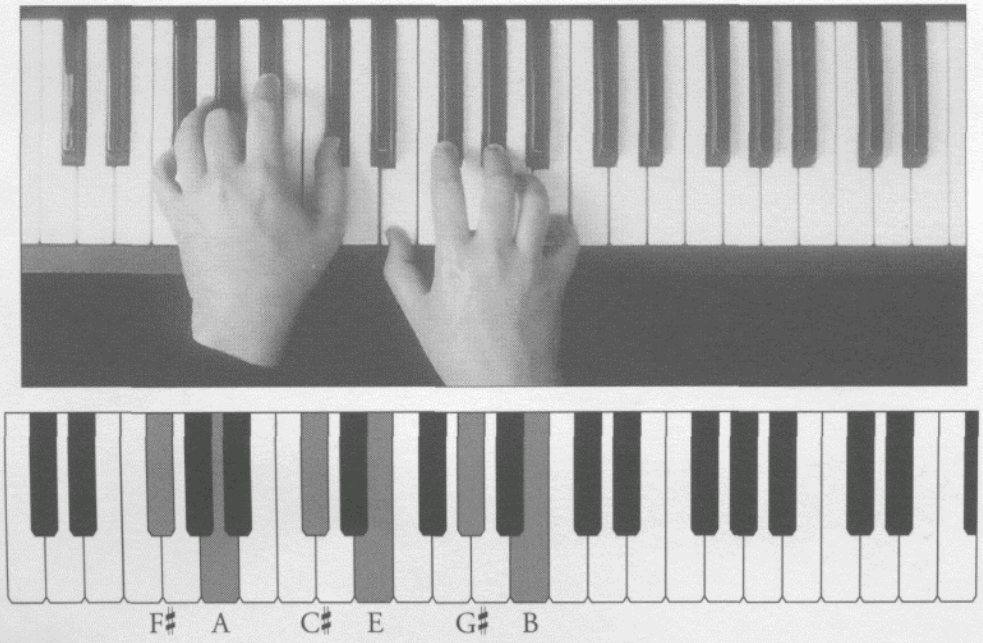
F♯ minor7♭9



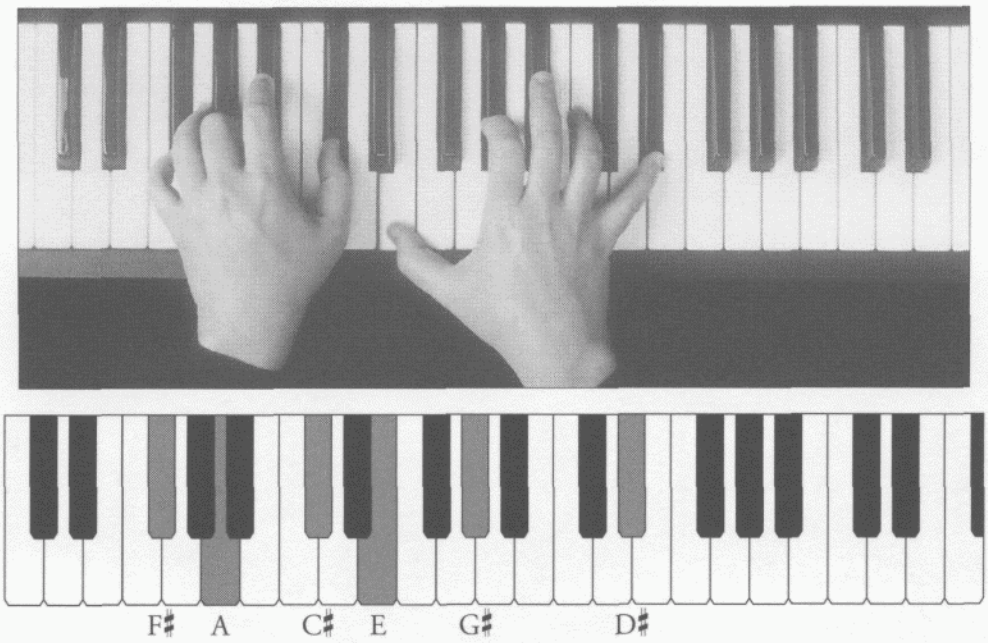
F♯ minor9



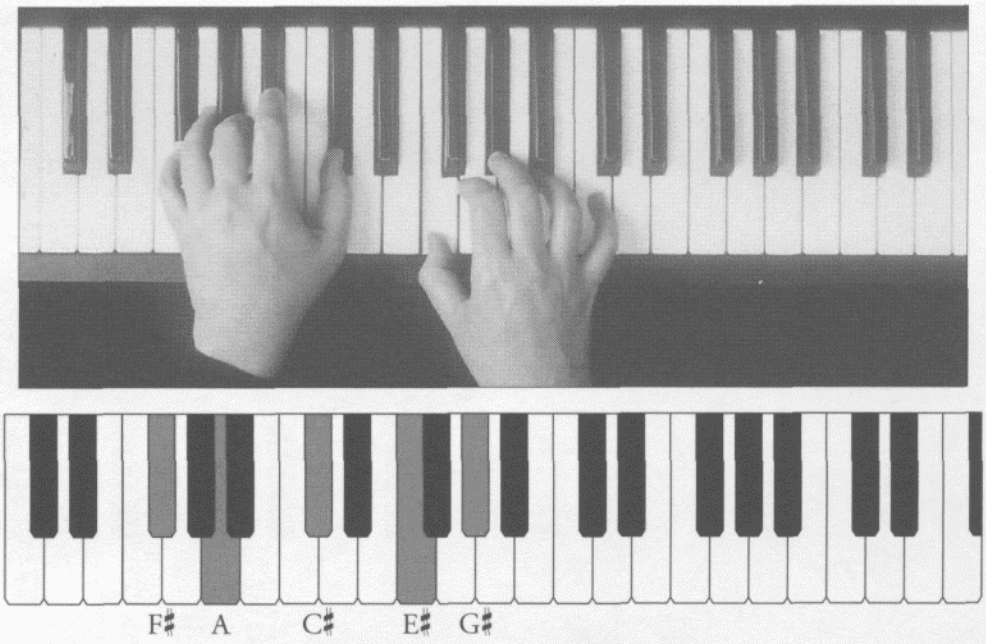
F♯ minor11



F♯ minor13

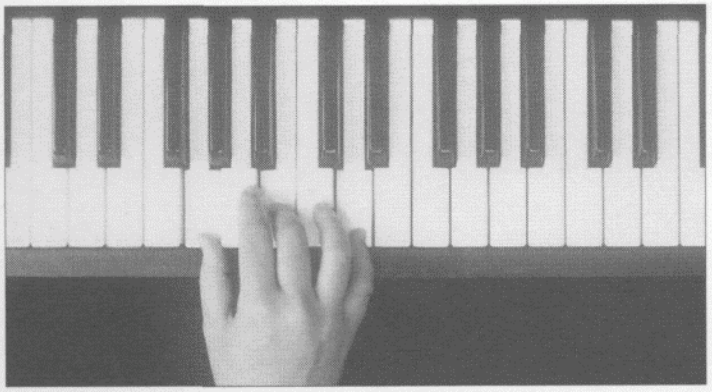


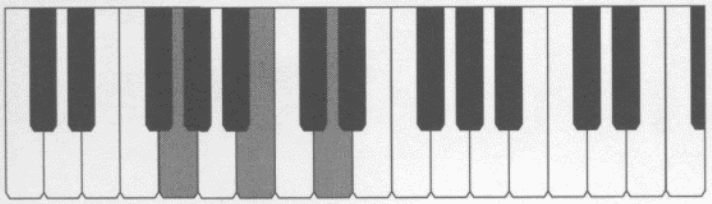
F♯ minor9 (major7)



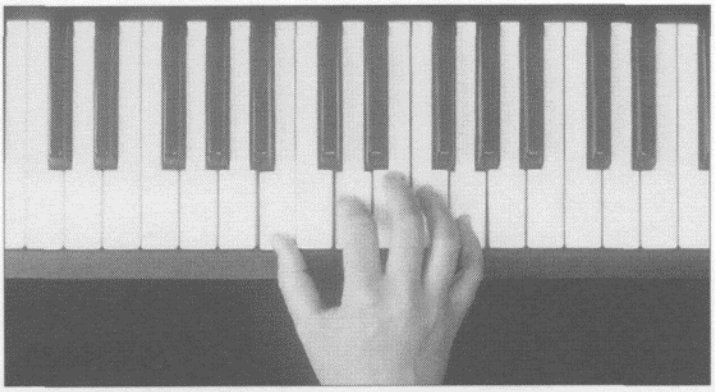
G chords

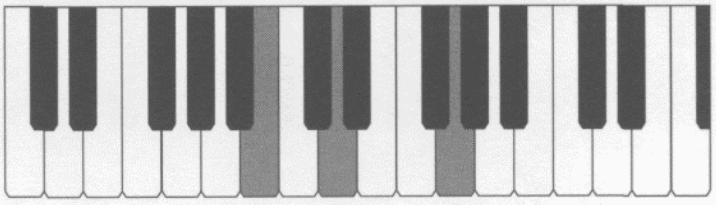
G major



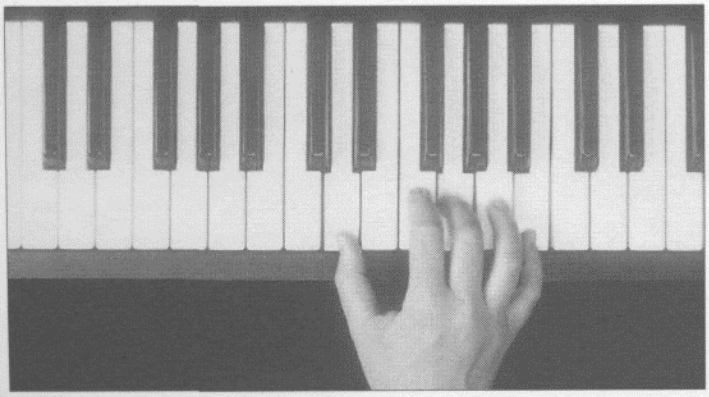


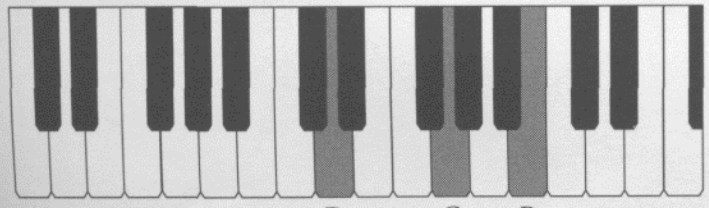
G/B *first inversion*



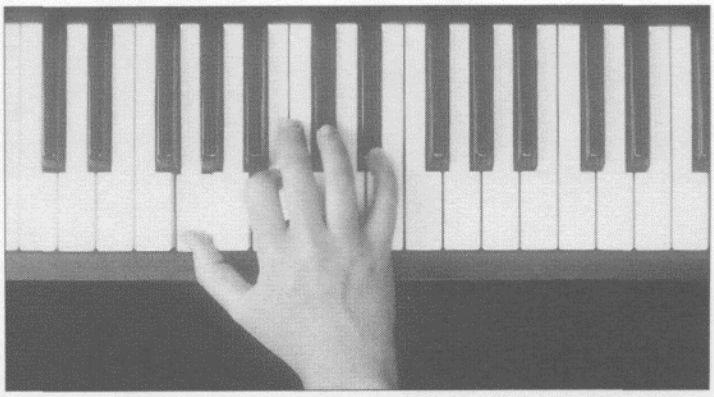


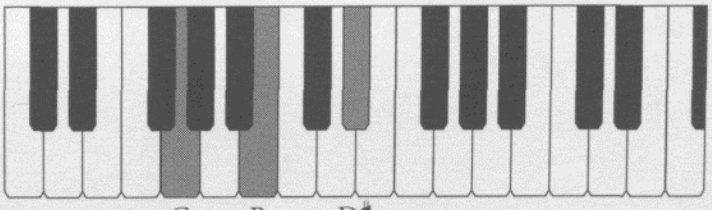
G/D *second inversion*



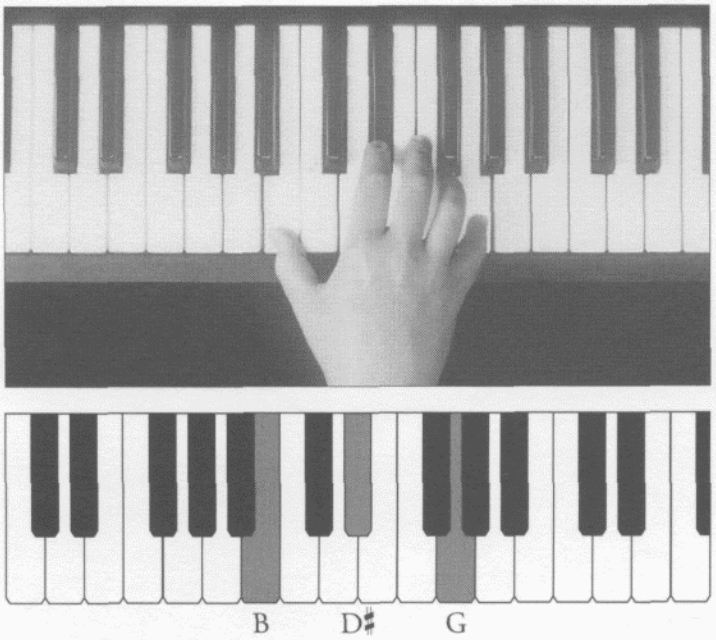


G augmented

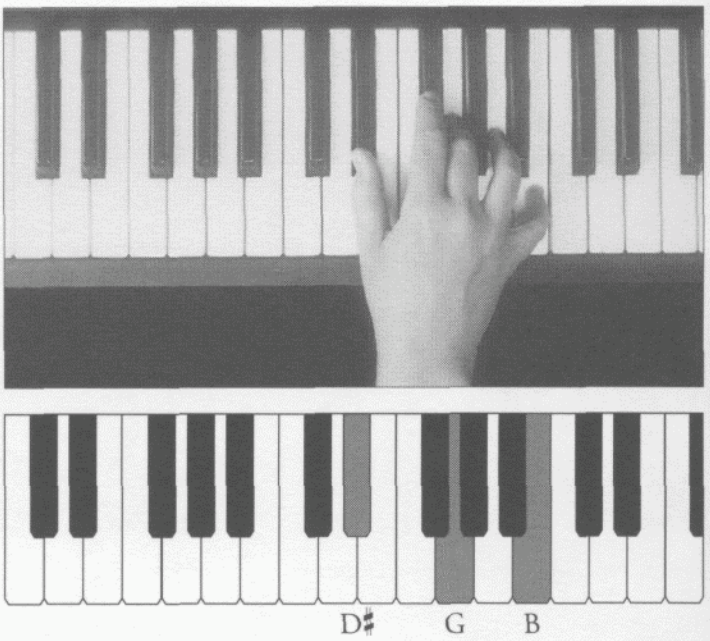




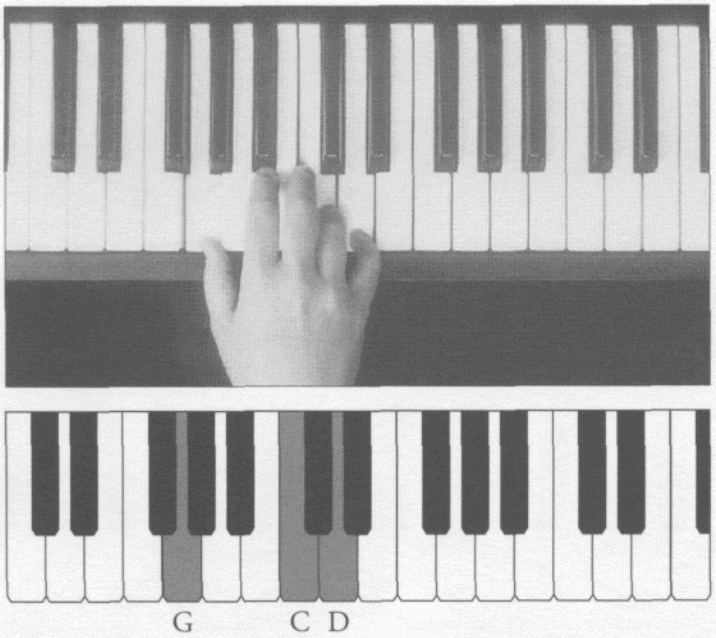
G augmented *first inversion*



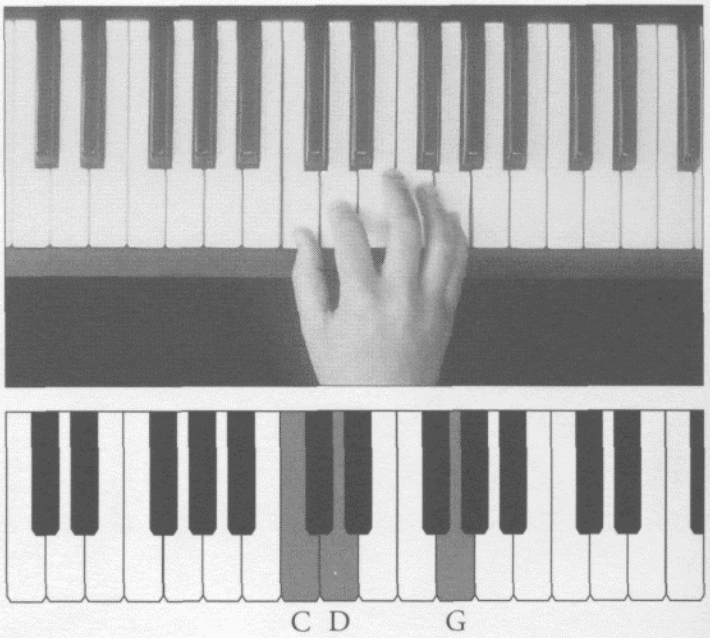
G augmented *second inversion*



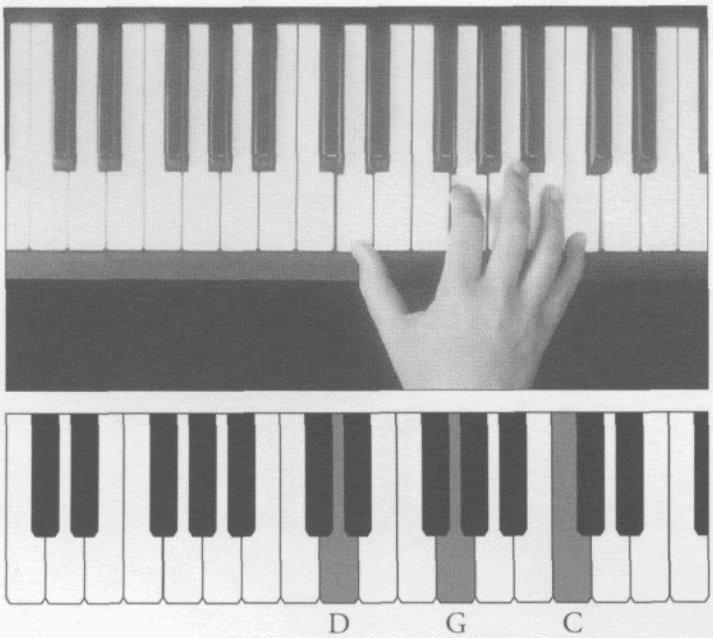
Gsus4



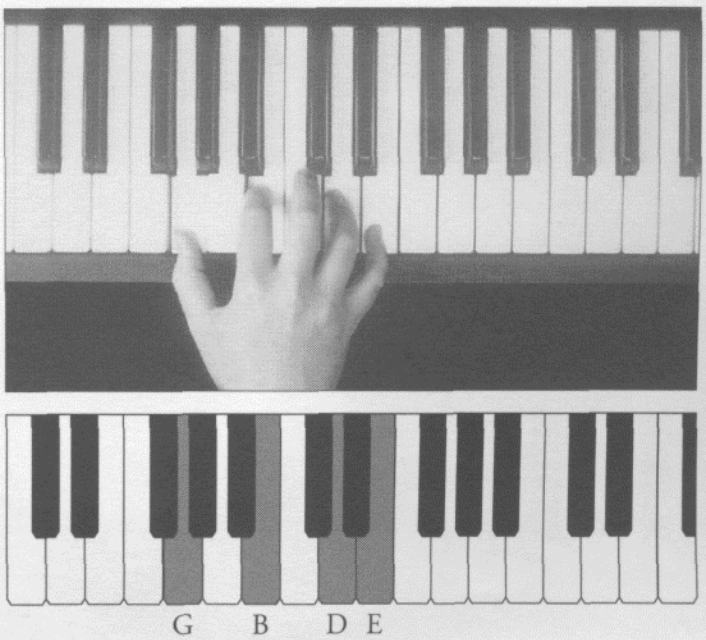
Gsus4 *first inversion*



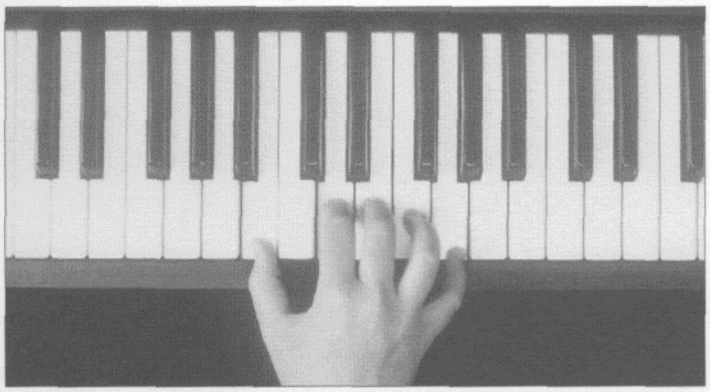
Gsus4 *second inversion*

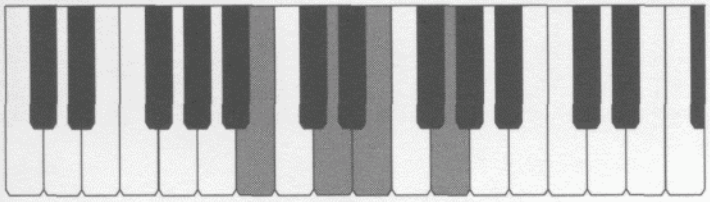


G6



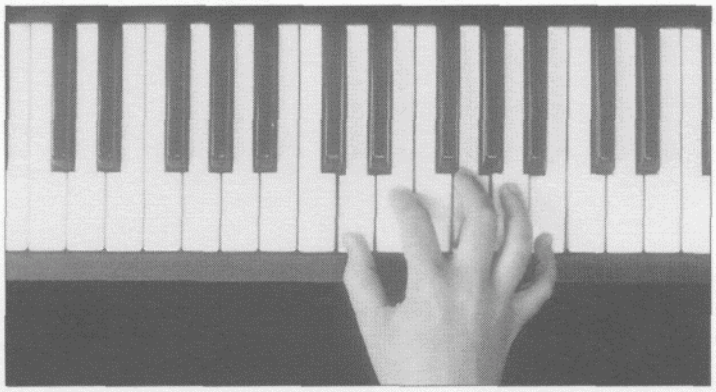
G6 *first inversion*

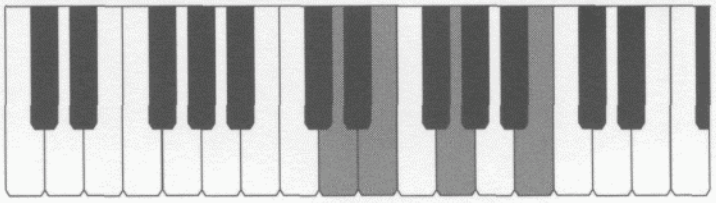




B D E G

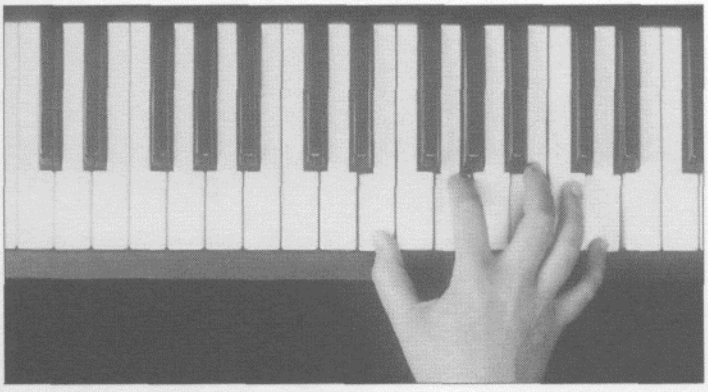
G6 *second inversion*

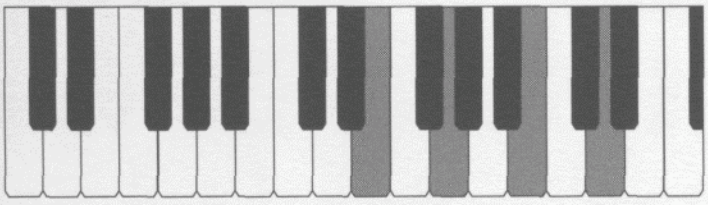




D E G B

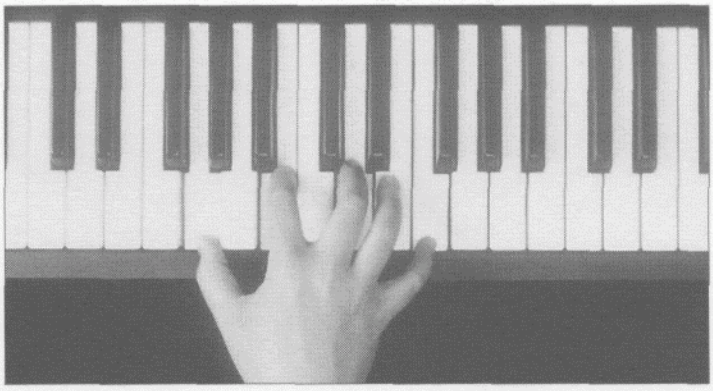
G6 *third inversion*

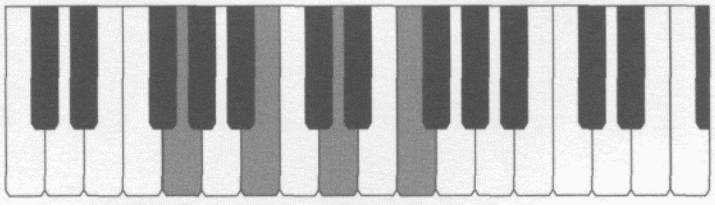




E G B D

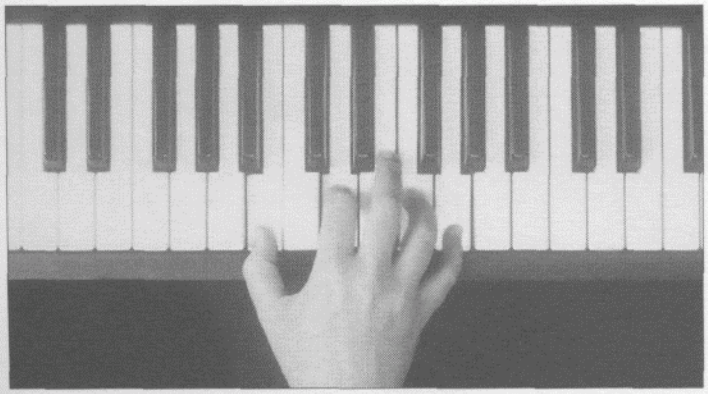
G7





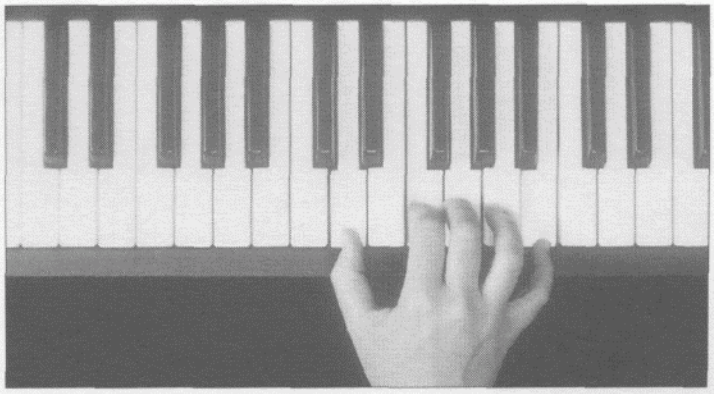
G B D F

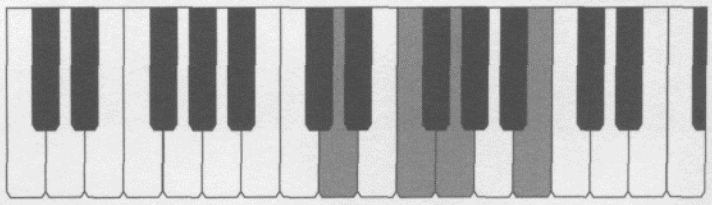
G7 *first inversion*



B D F G

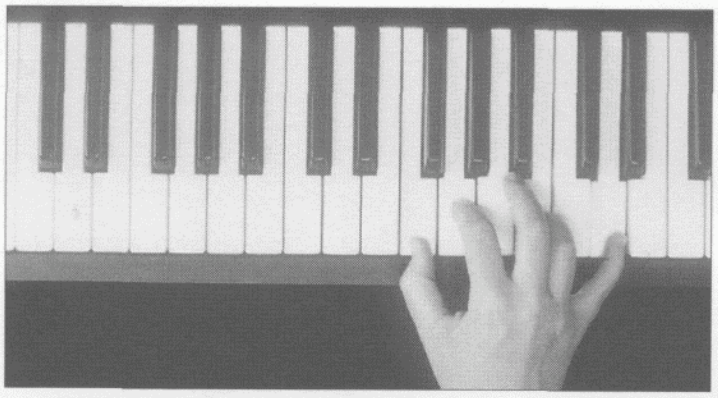
G7 *second inversion*

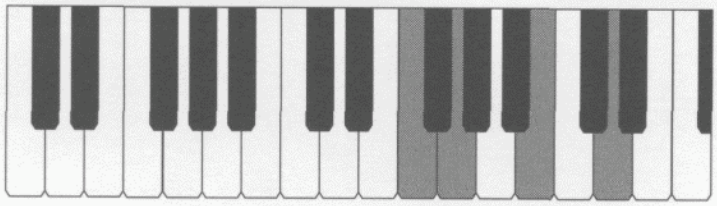




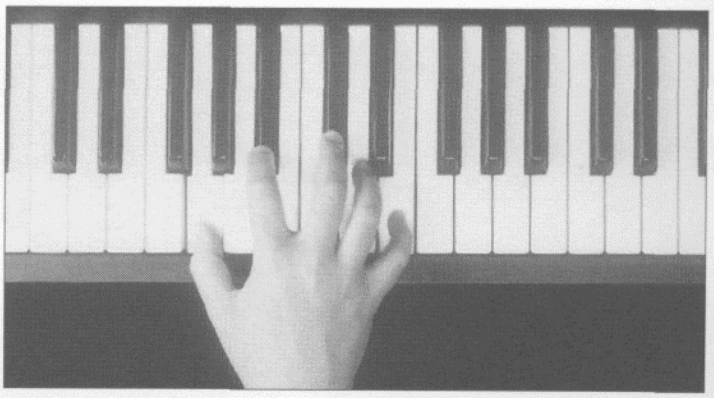
D F G B

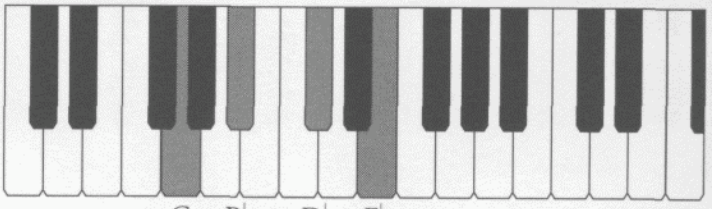
G7 *third inversion*



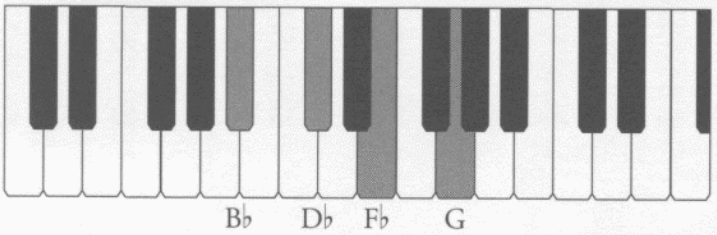


G°7

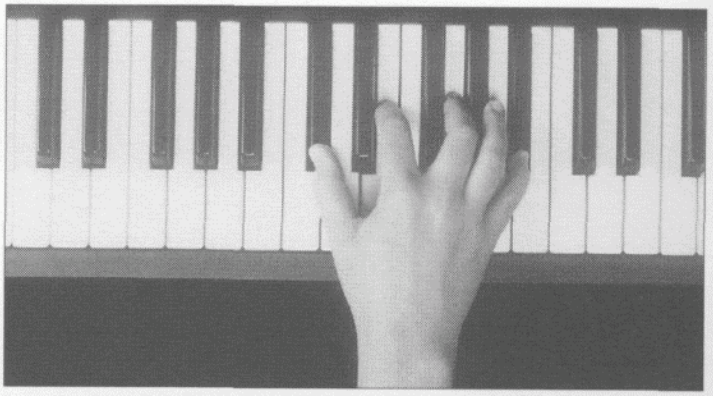


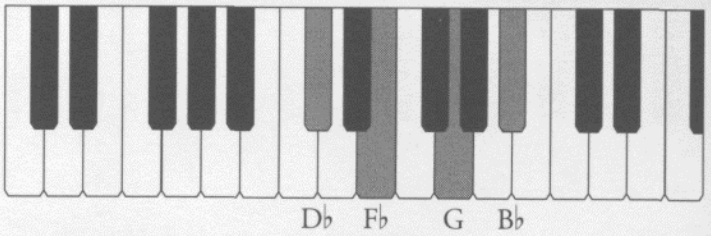


G°7 *first inversion*

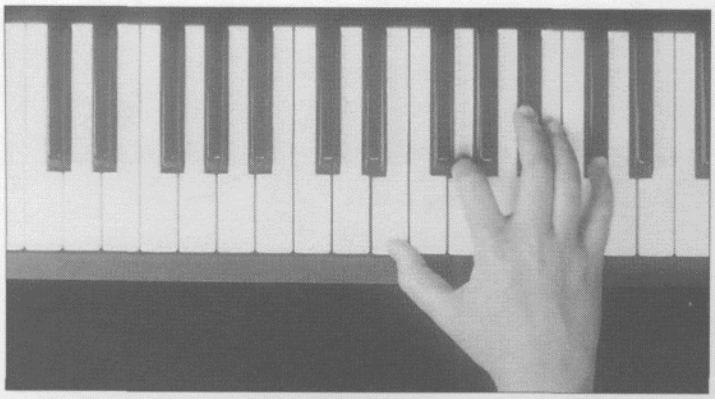


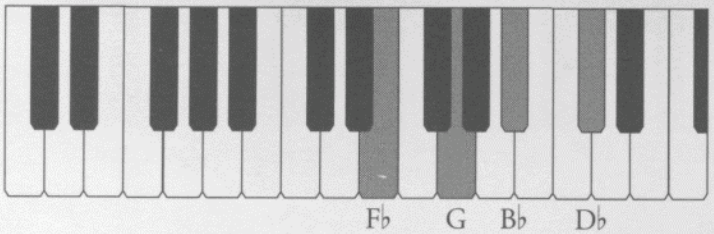
G°7 *second inversion*



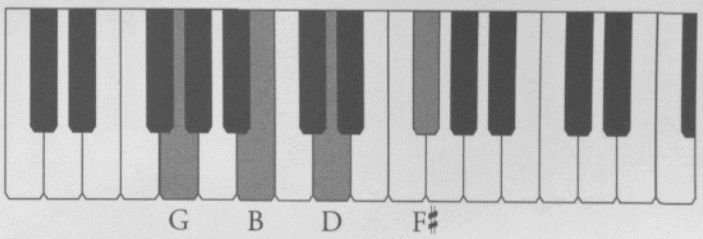


G°7 *third inversion*

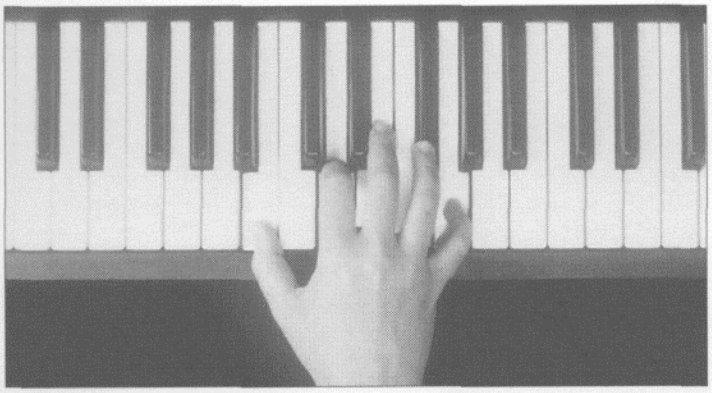


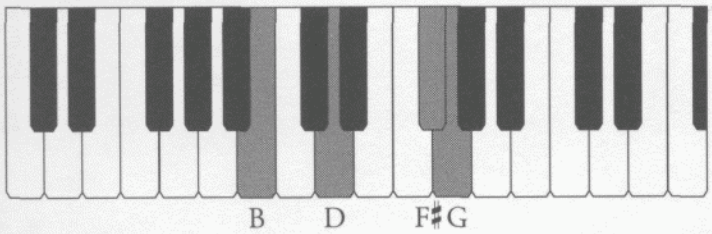


G major7

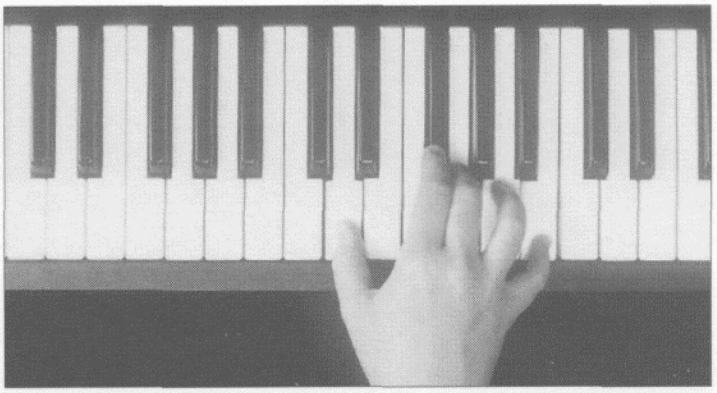


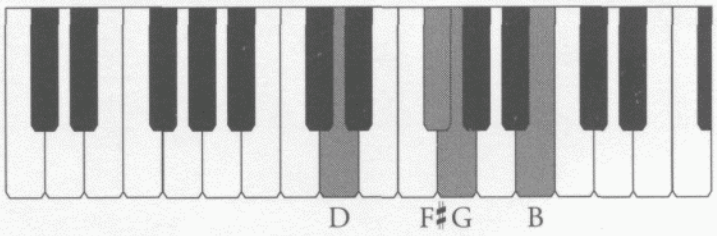
G major7 *first inversion*



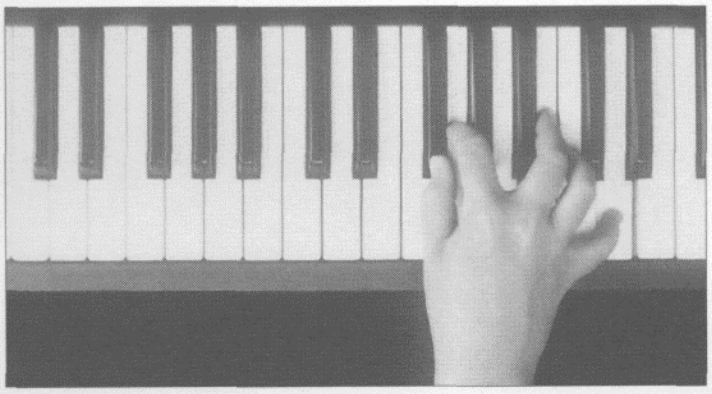


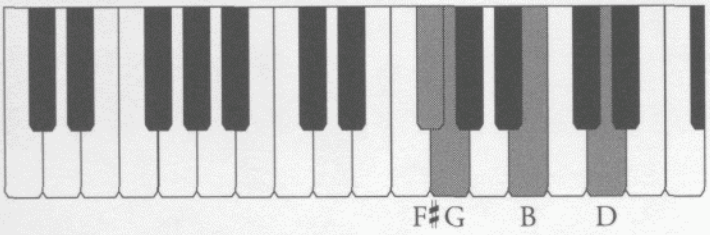
G major7 *second inversion*



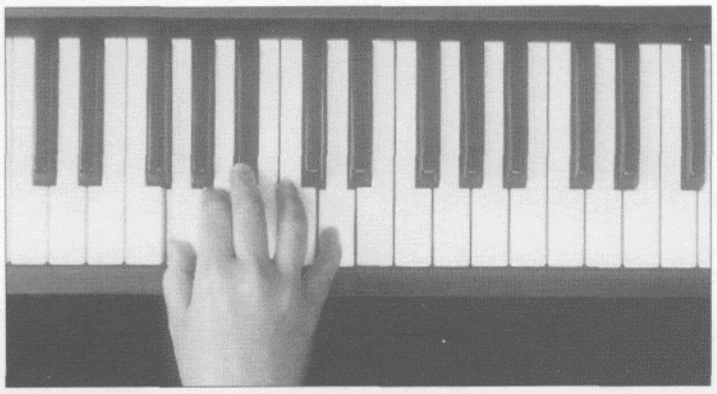


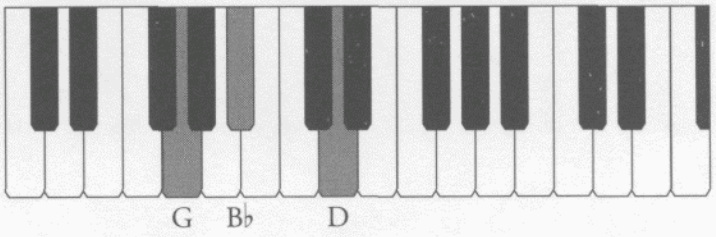
G major7 *third inversion*



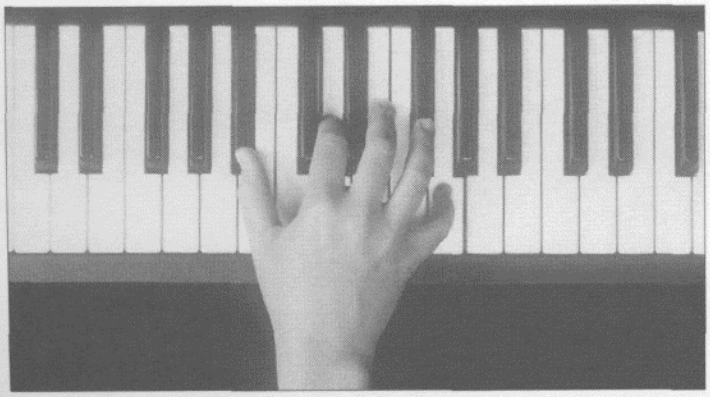


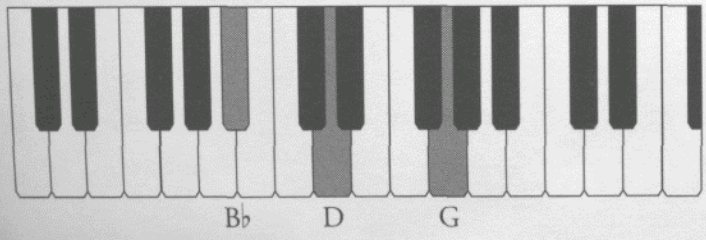
G minor



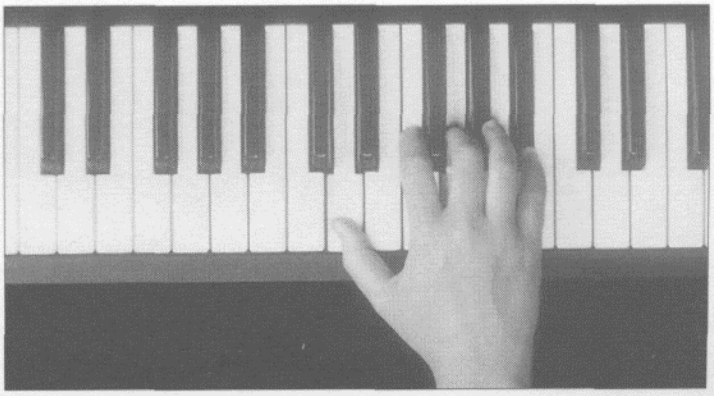


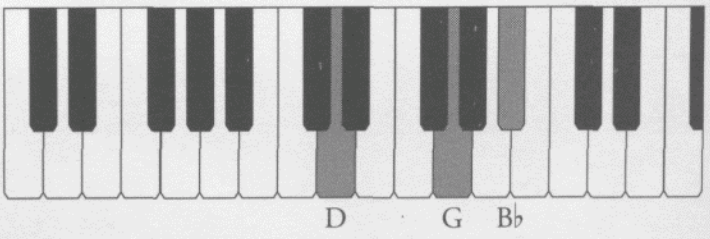
G minor *first inversion*



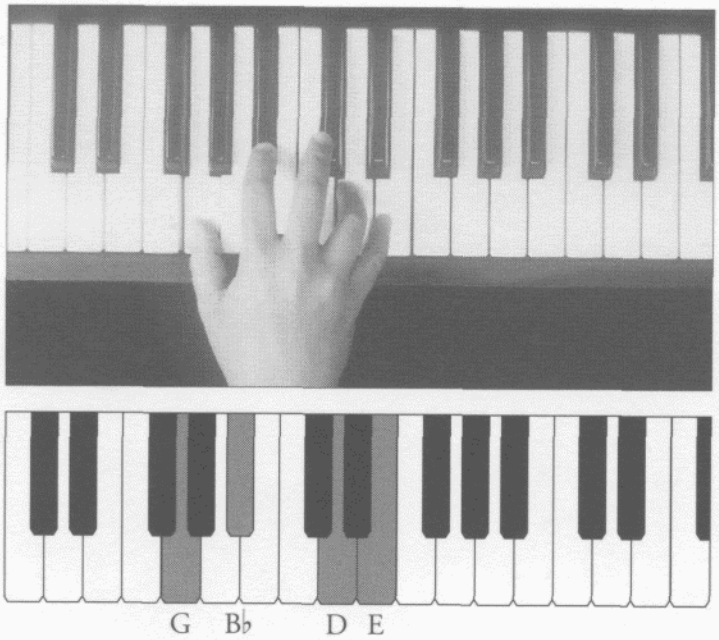


G minor *second inversion*

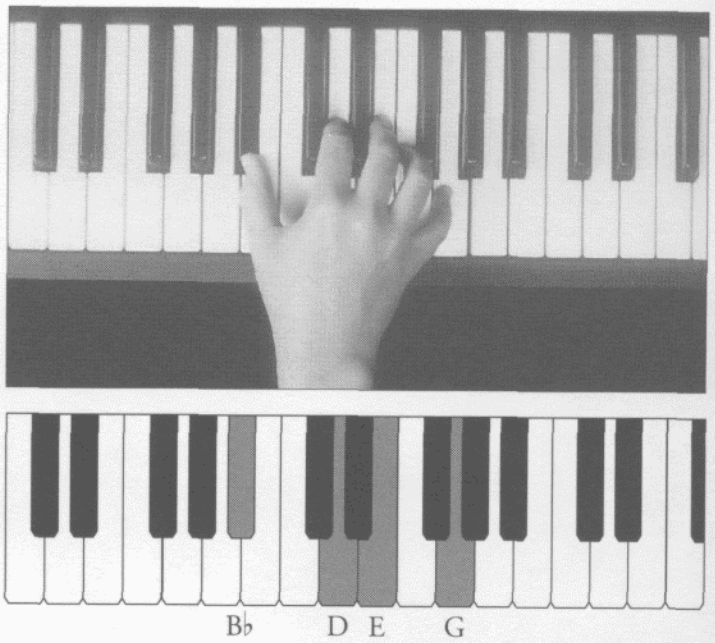




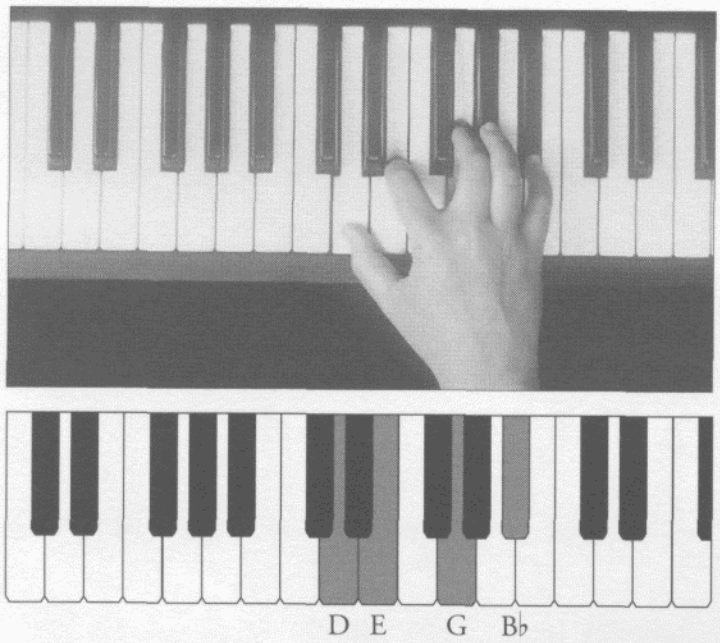
G minor6



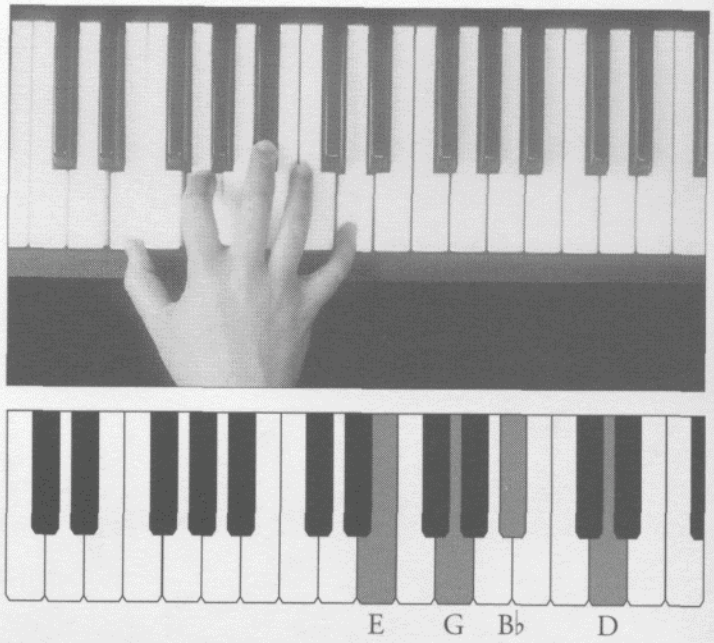
G minor6 *first inversion*



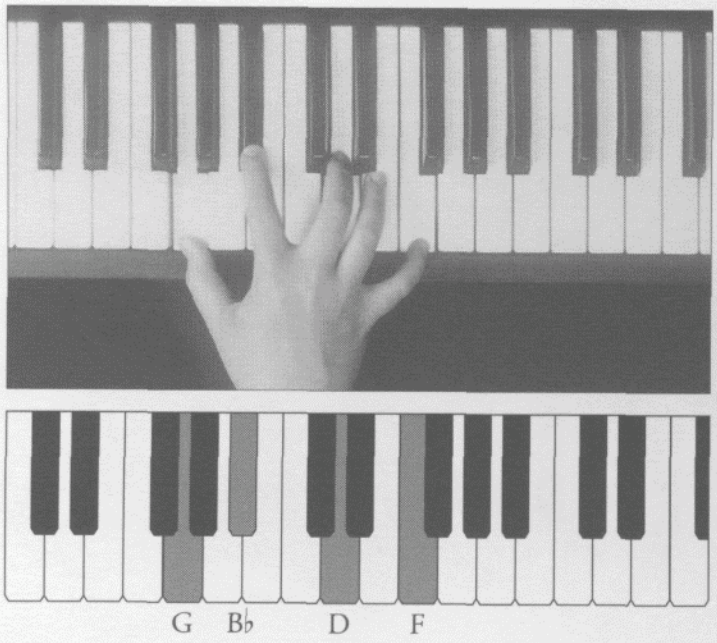
G minor6 *second inversion*



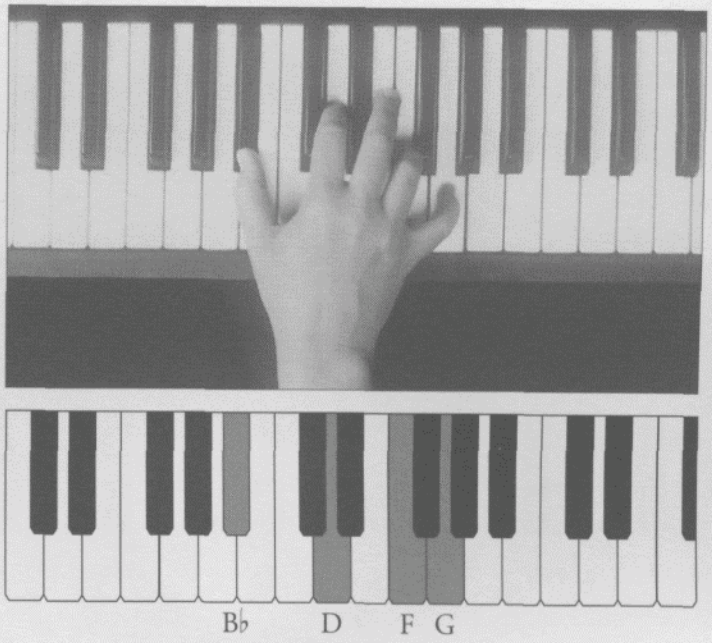
G minor6 *third inversion*



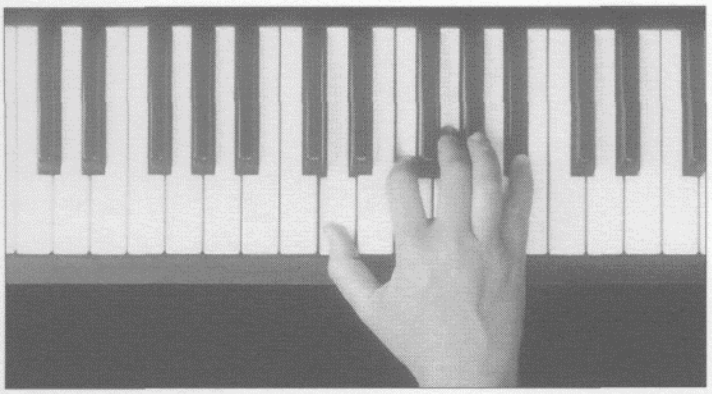
G minor7



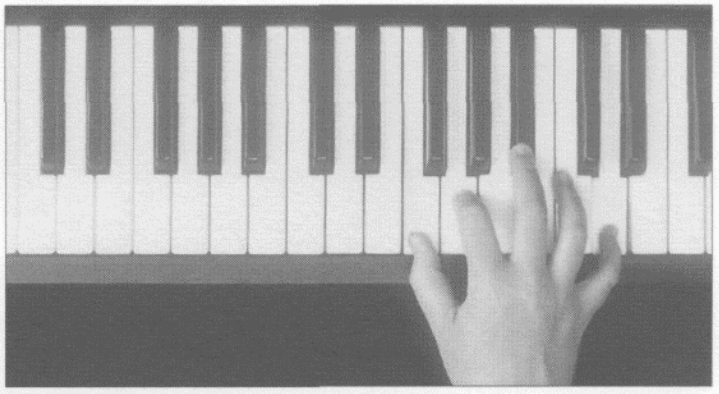
G minor7 *first inversion*

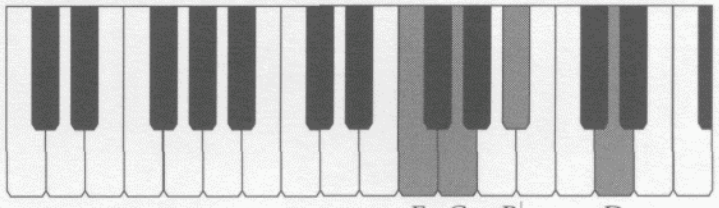


G minor7 *second inversion*

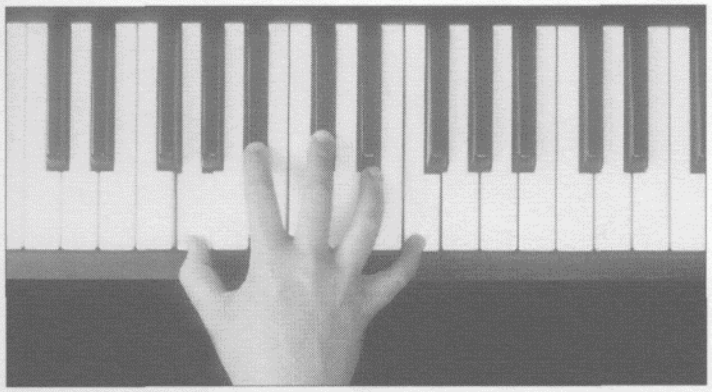


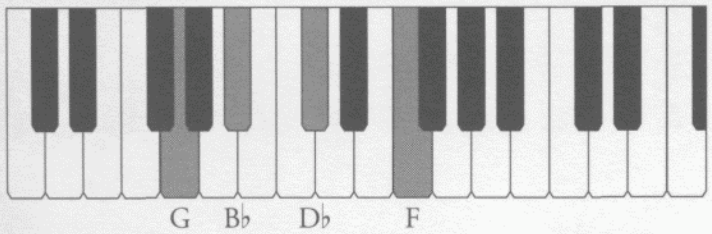
G minor7 *third inversion*



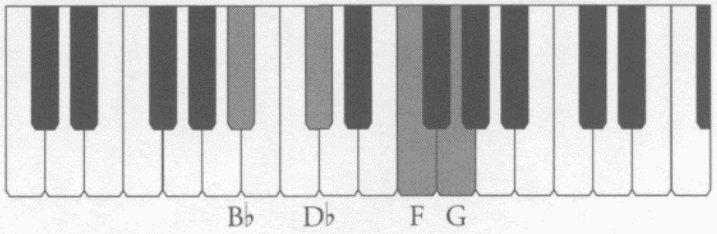


G minor7♭5

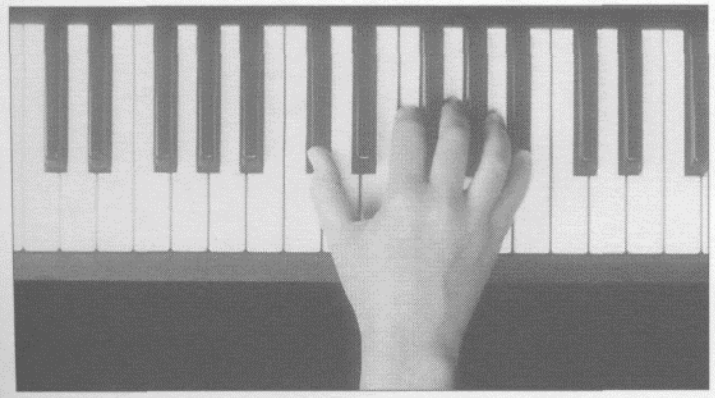


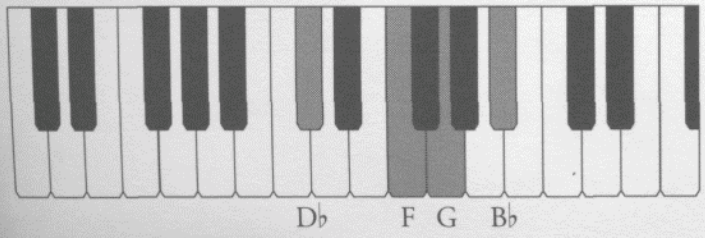


G minor7♭5 *first inversion*

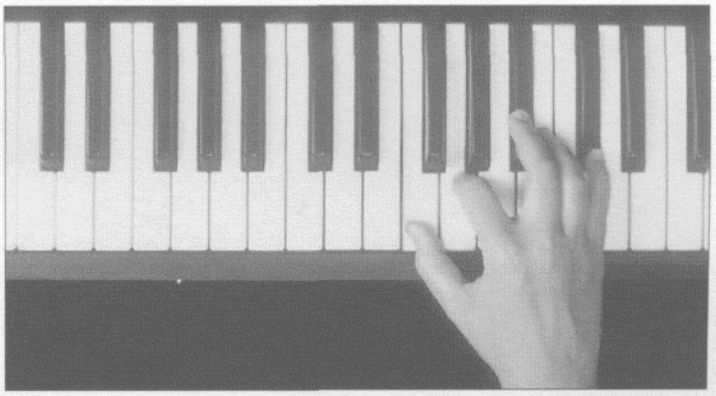


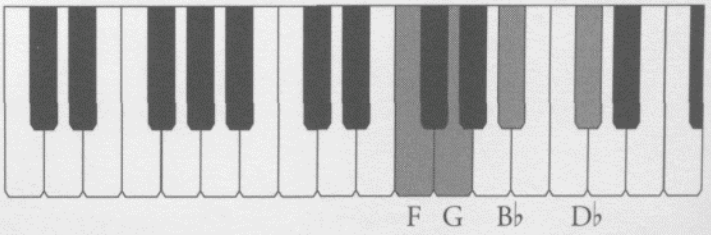
G minor7♭5 *second inversion*



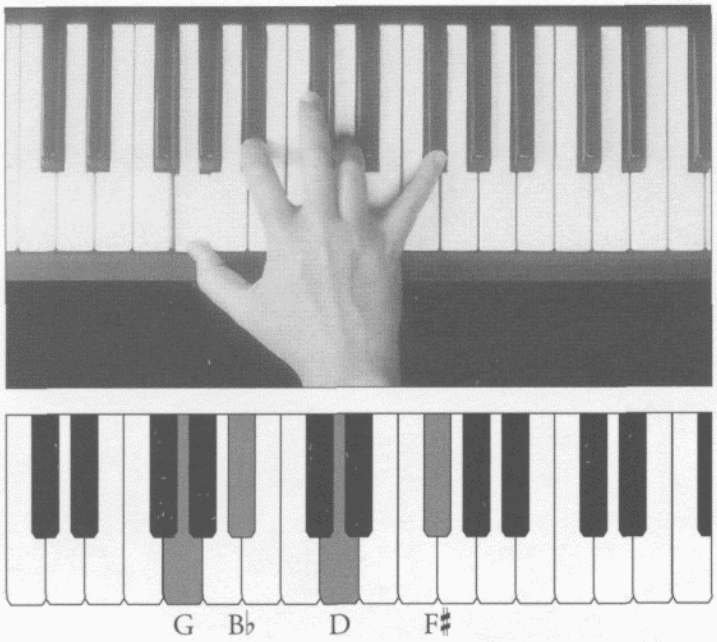


G minor7♭5 *third inversion*

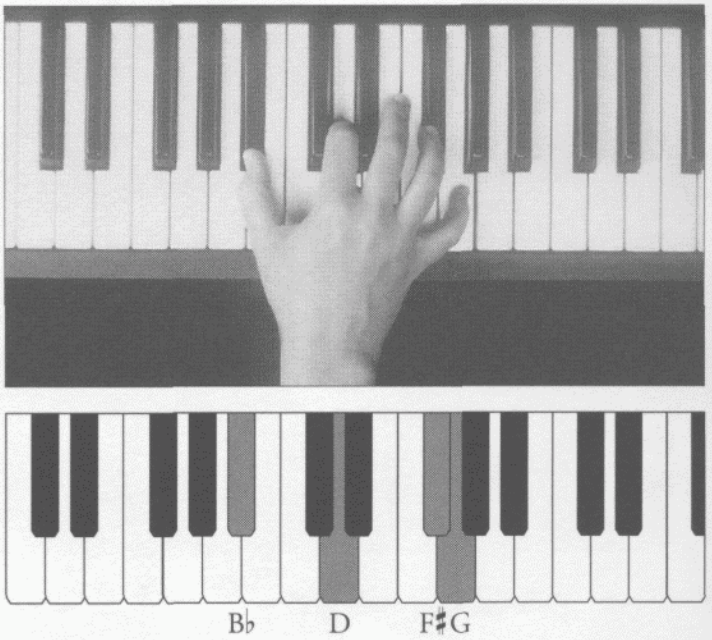




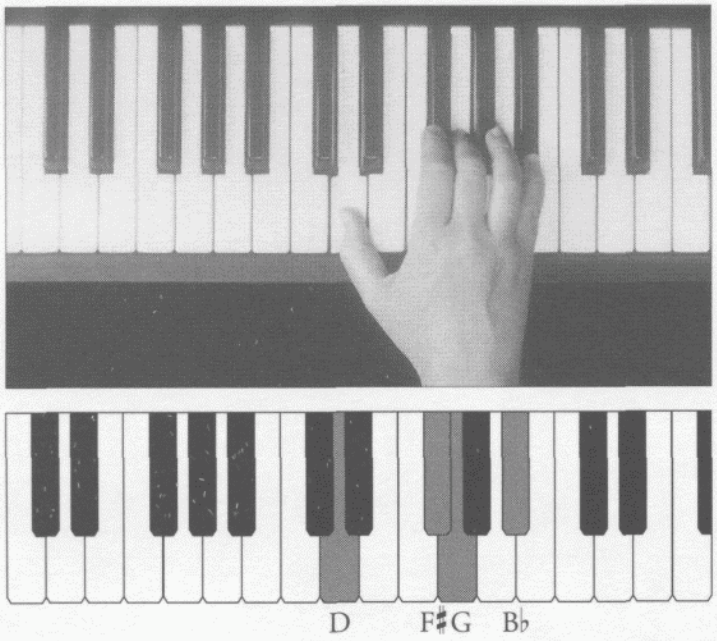
G minor (major7)



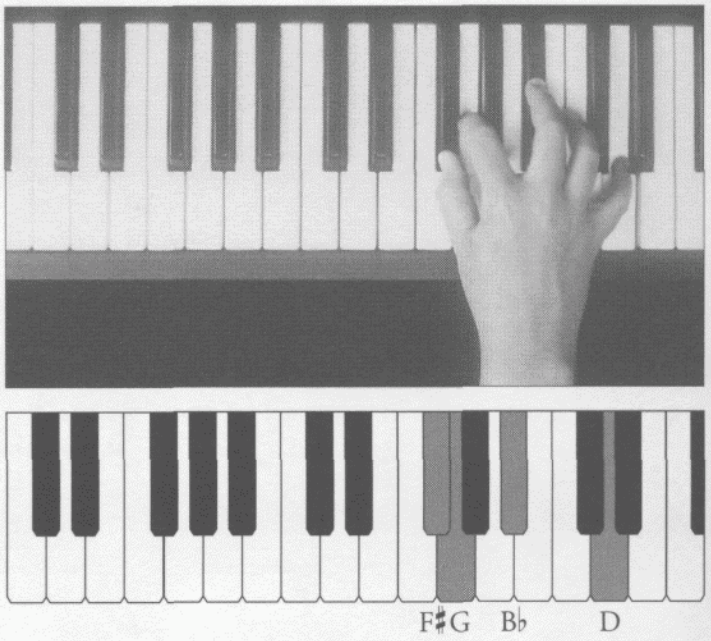
G minor (major7) *first inversion*



G minor (major7) *second inversion*

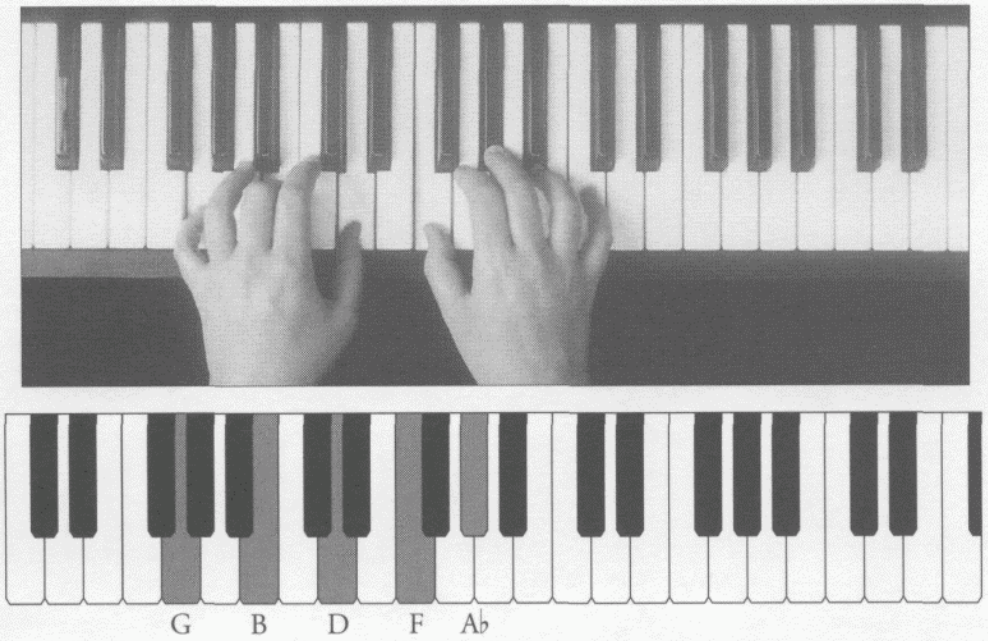


G minor (major7) *third inversion*

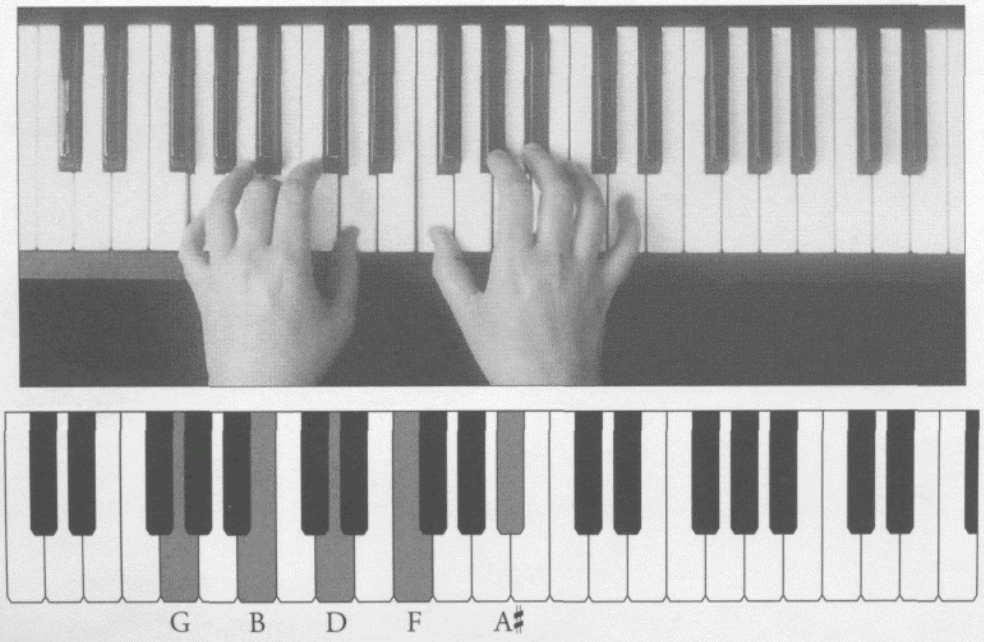


G chords
using both hands

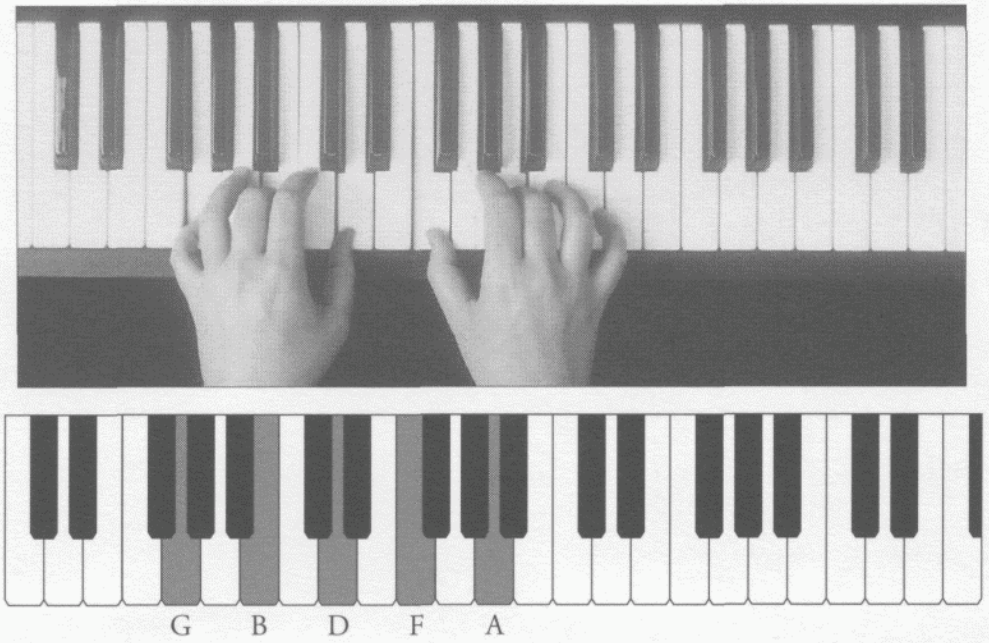
G7♭9



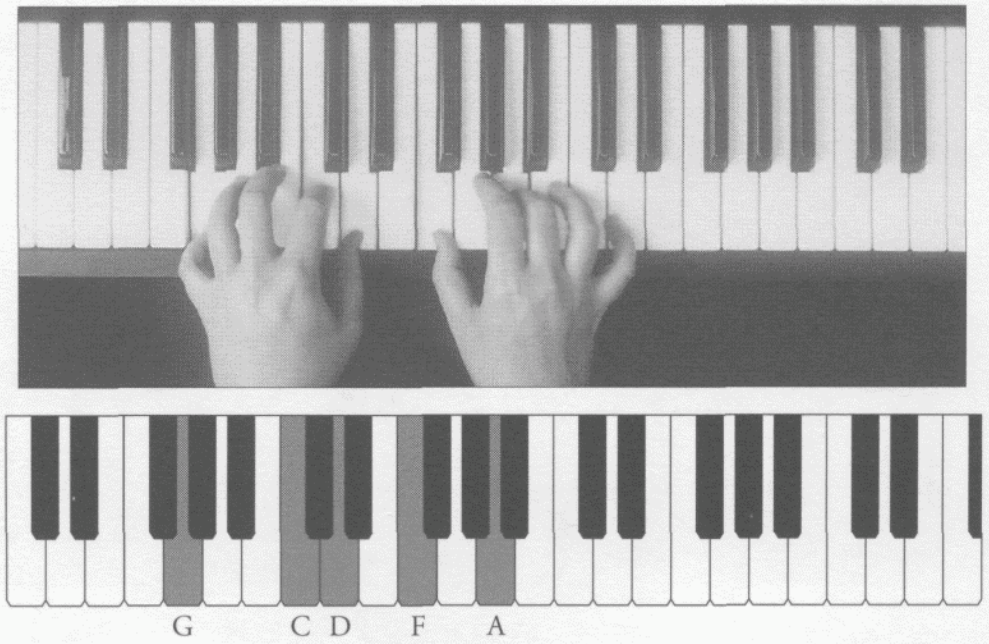
G7♯9



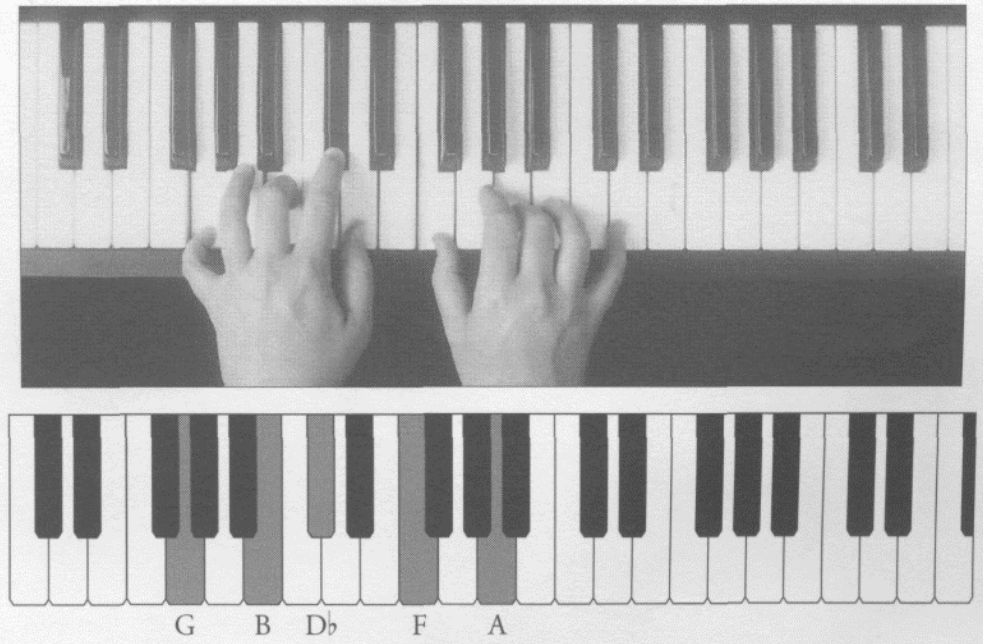
G9



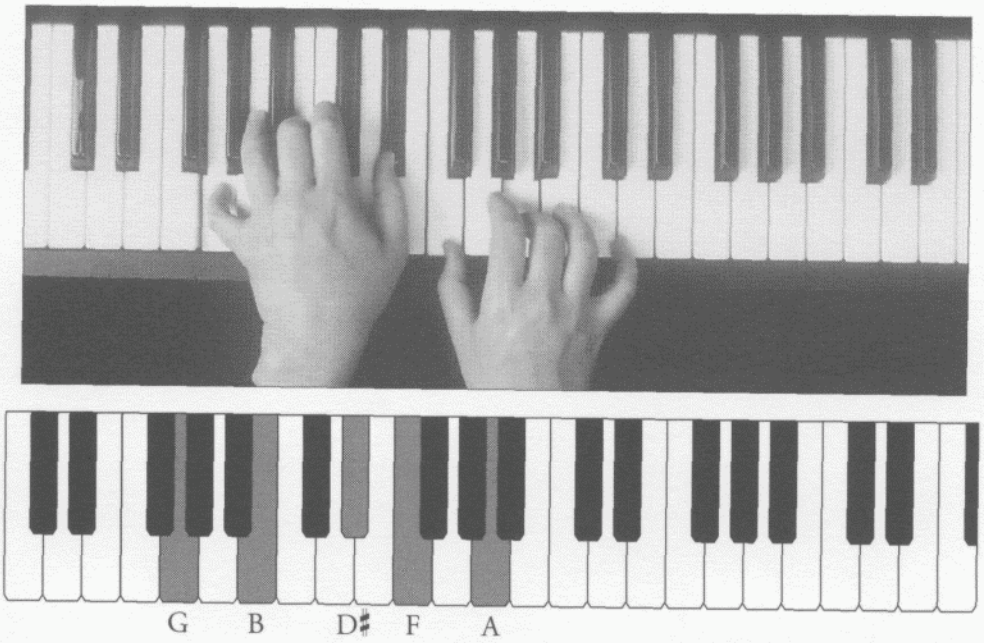
G9sus4



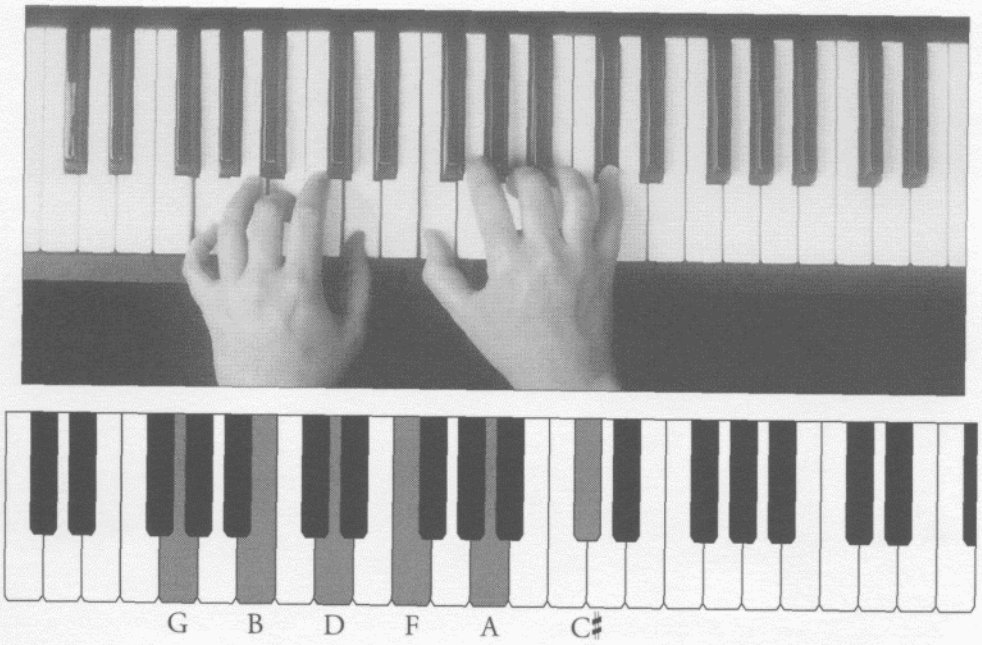
G9♭5



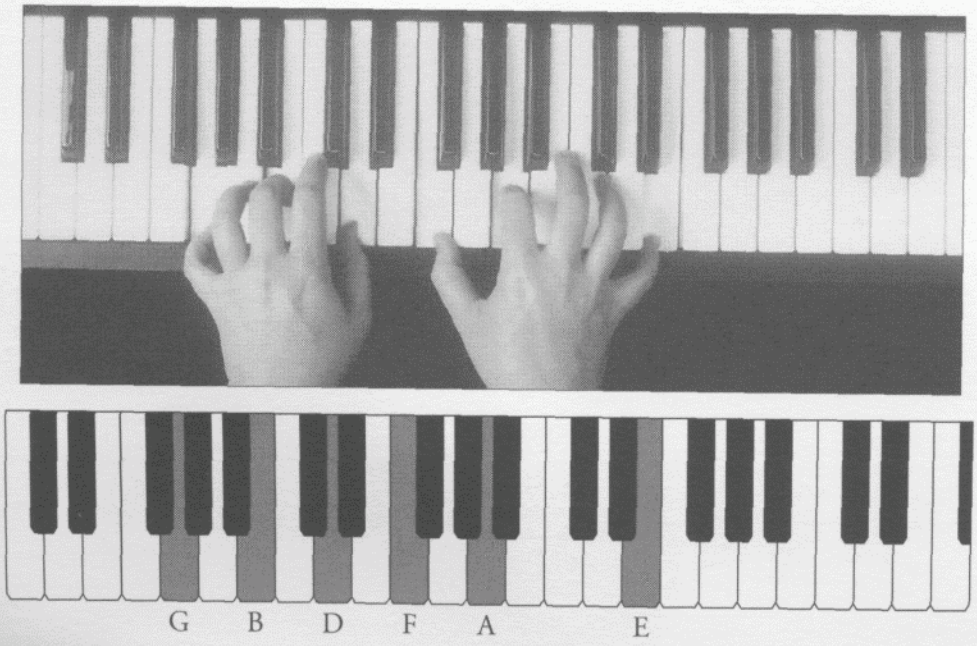
G9♯5



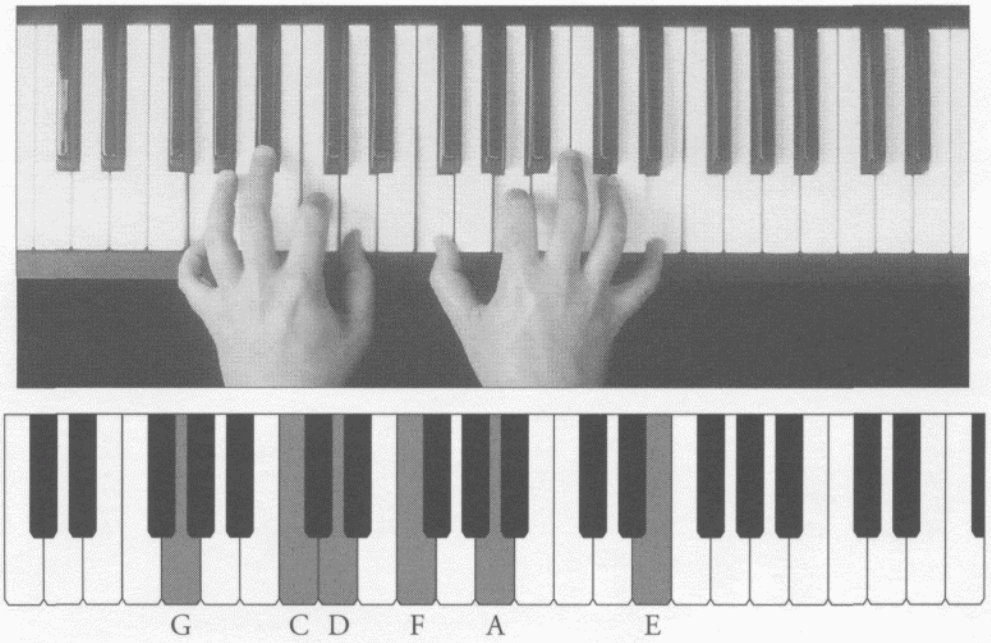
G9♯11



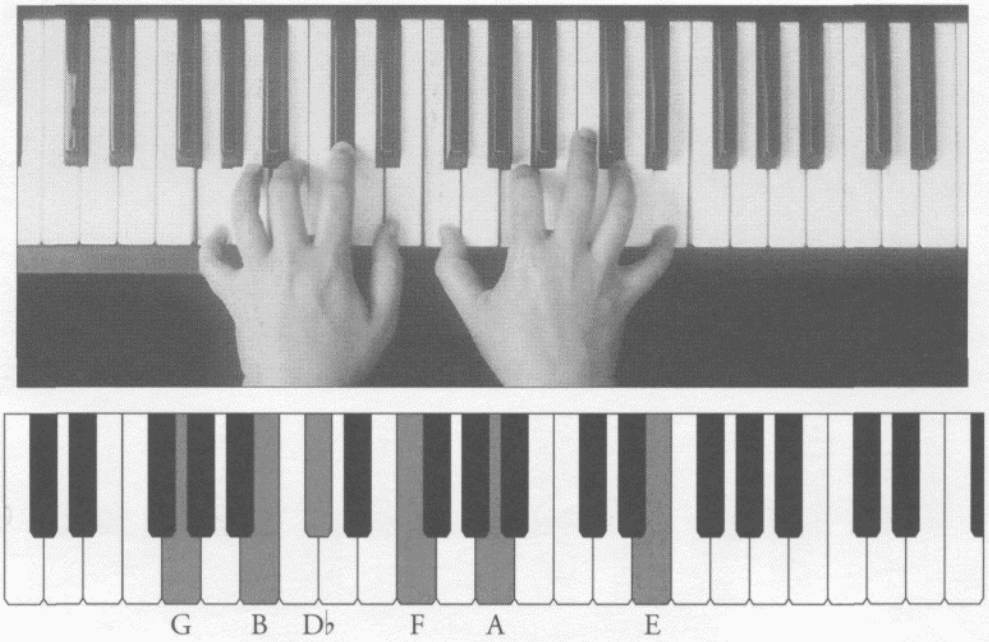
G13



G13sus4

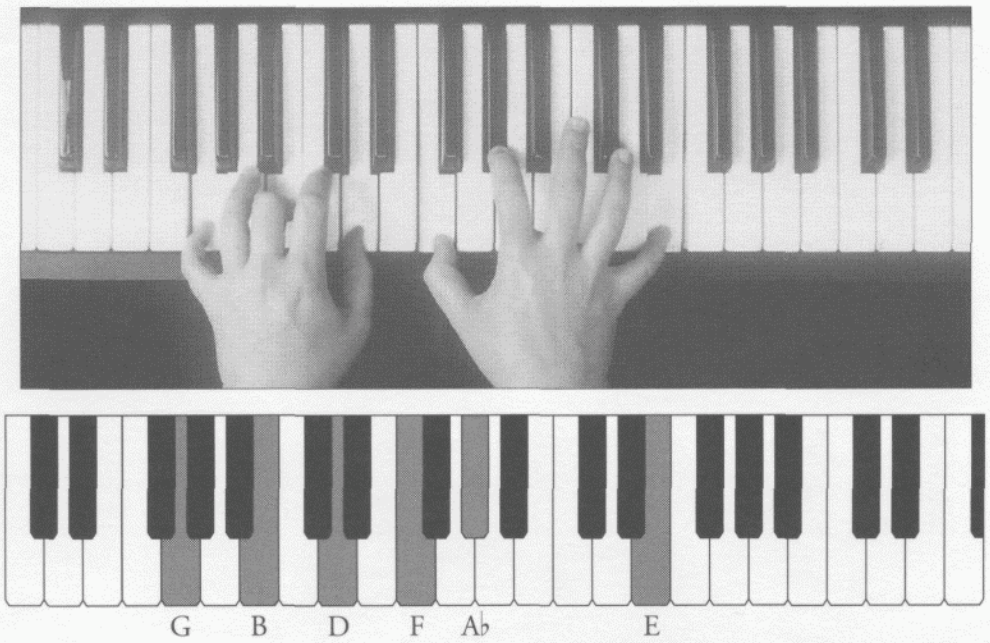


G13♭5

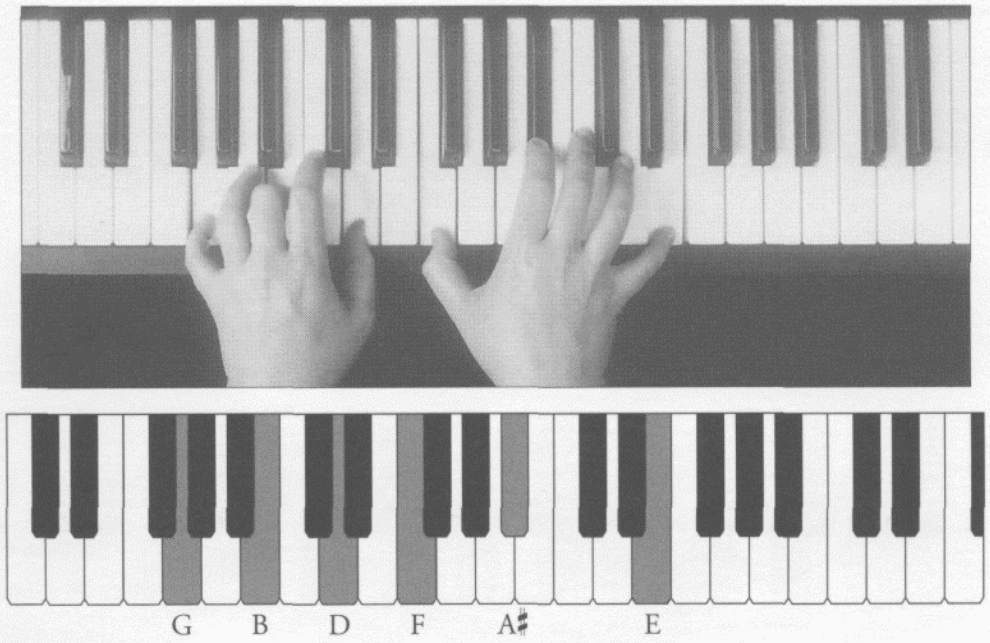


G13♯5

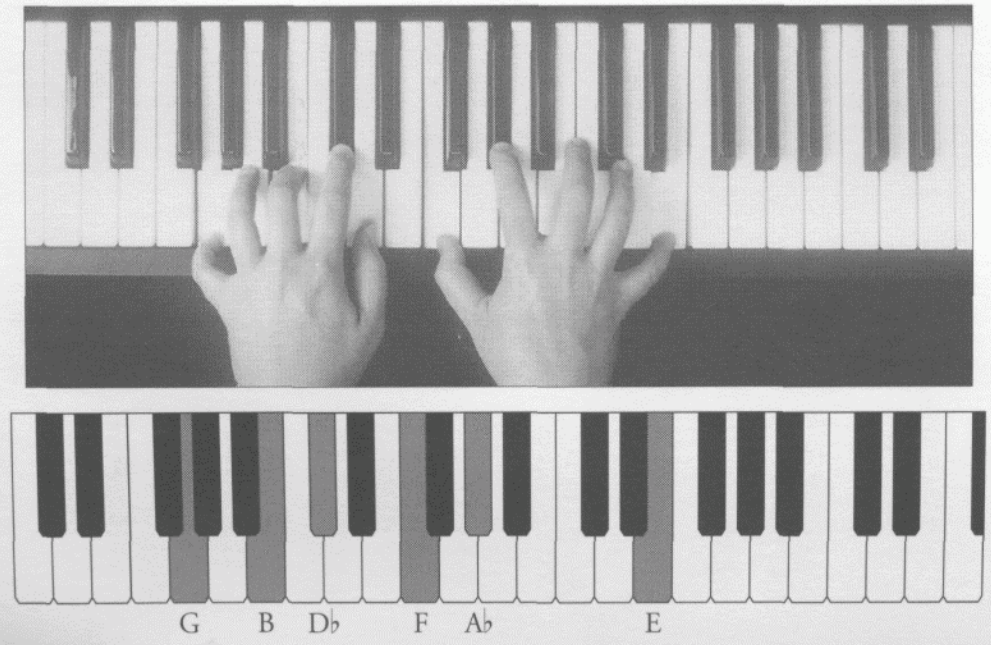
G13♭9



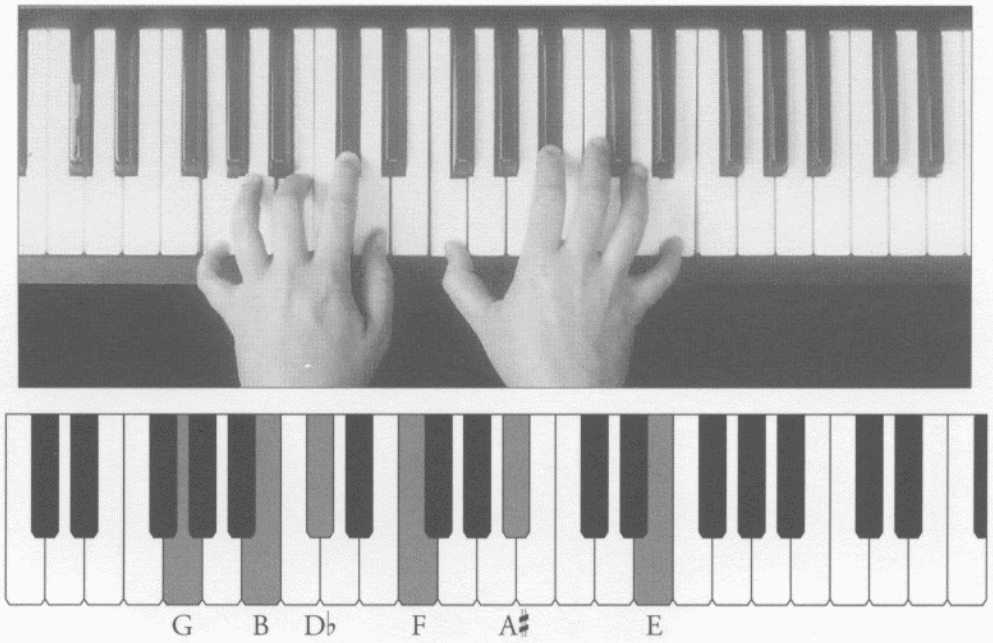
G13♯9



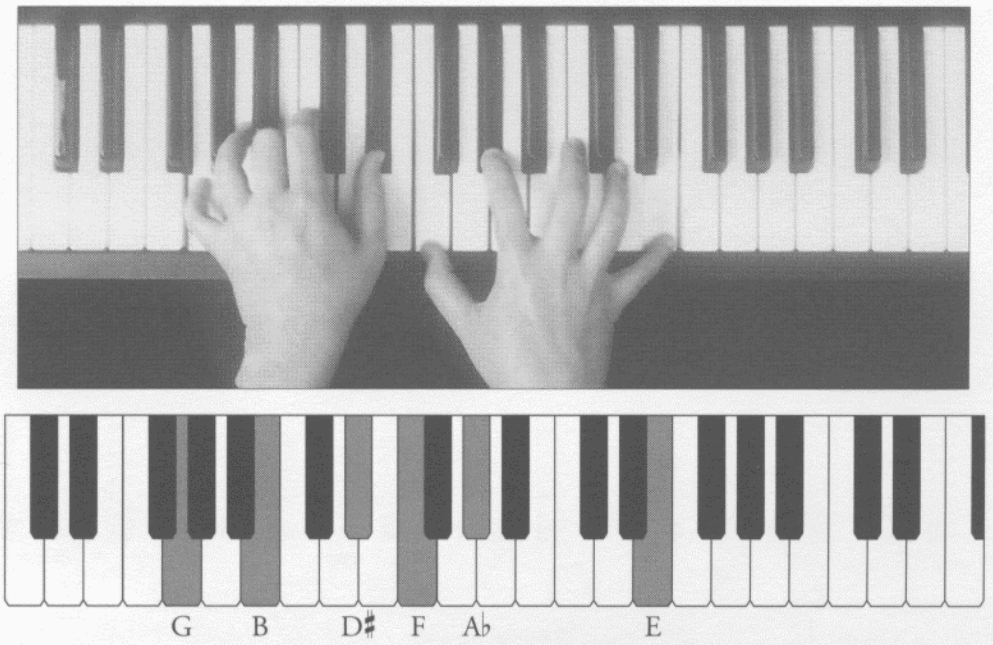
G13♭5♭9



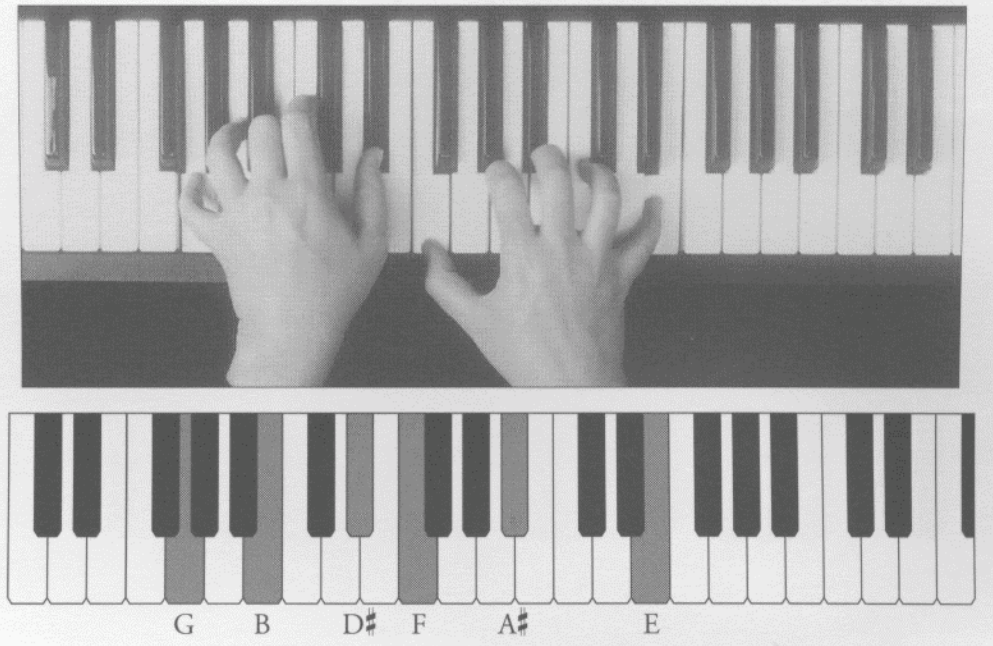
G13♭5♯9



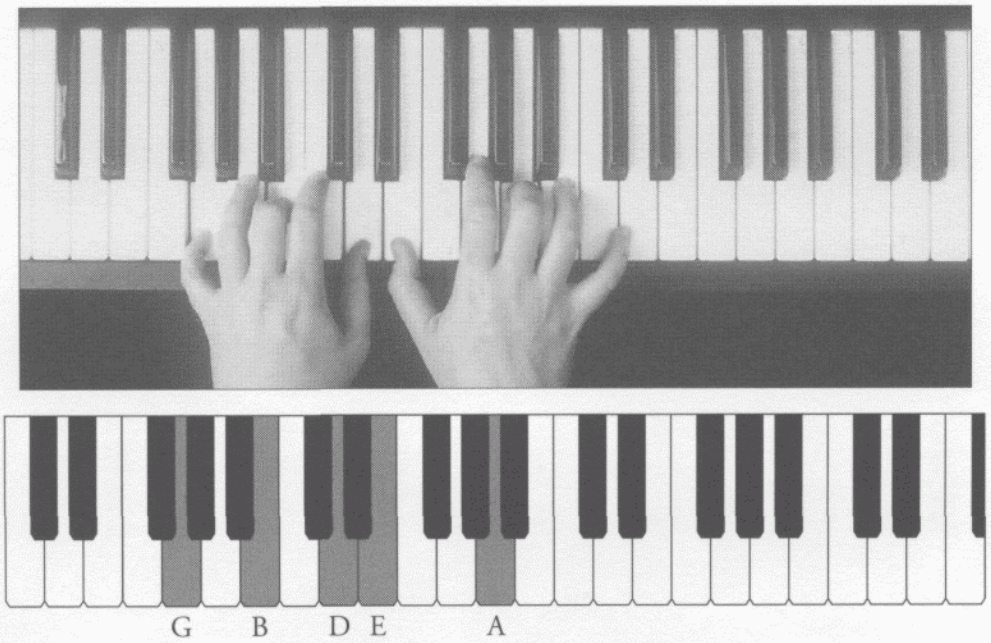
G13♯5♭9



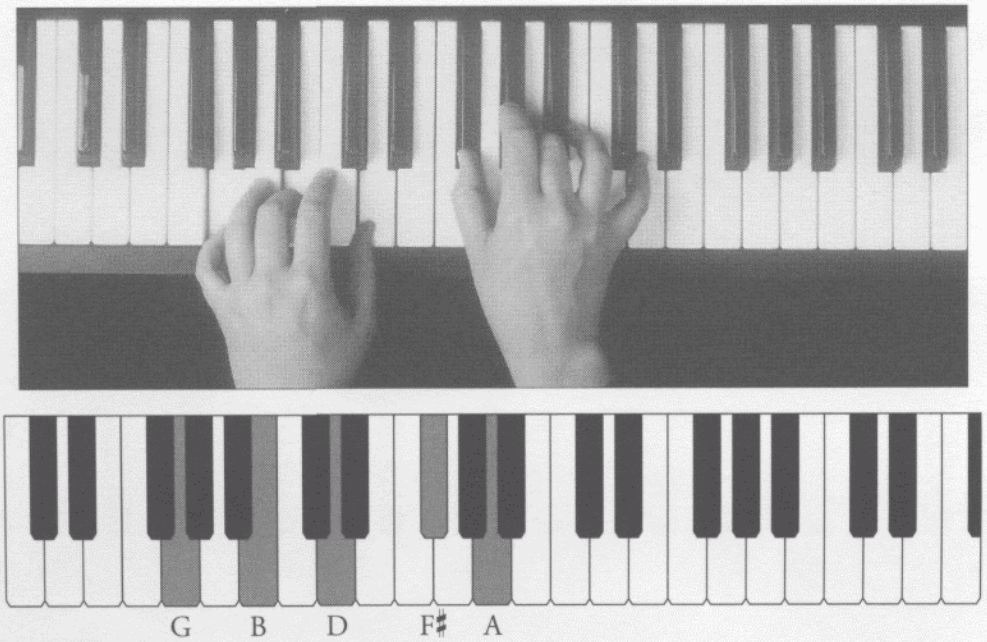
G13♯5♯9



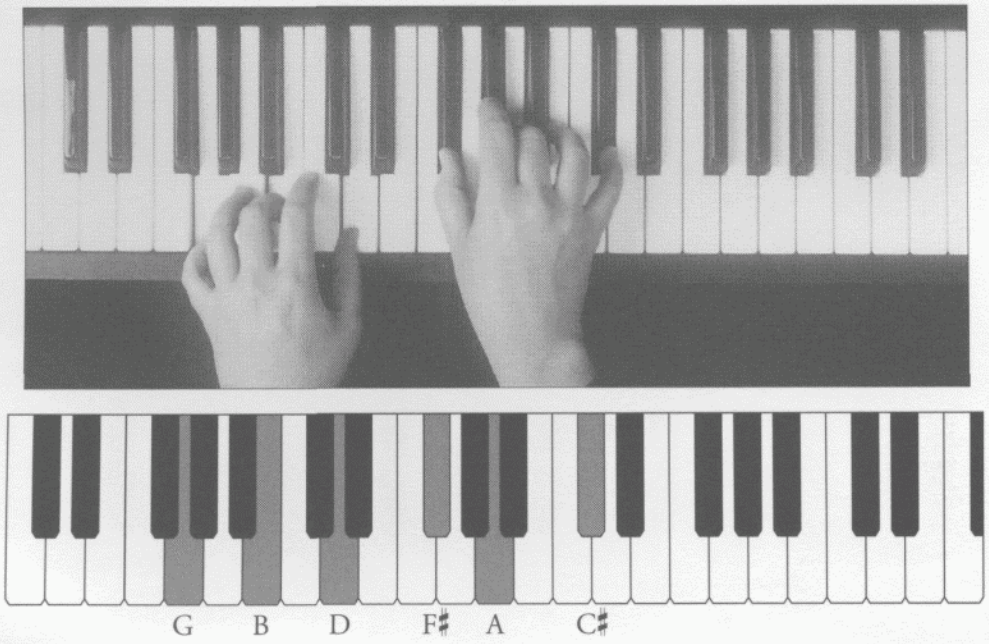
G 6/9



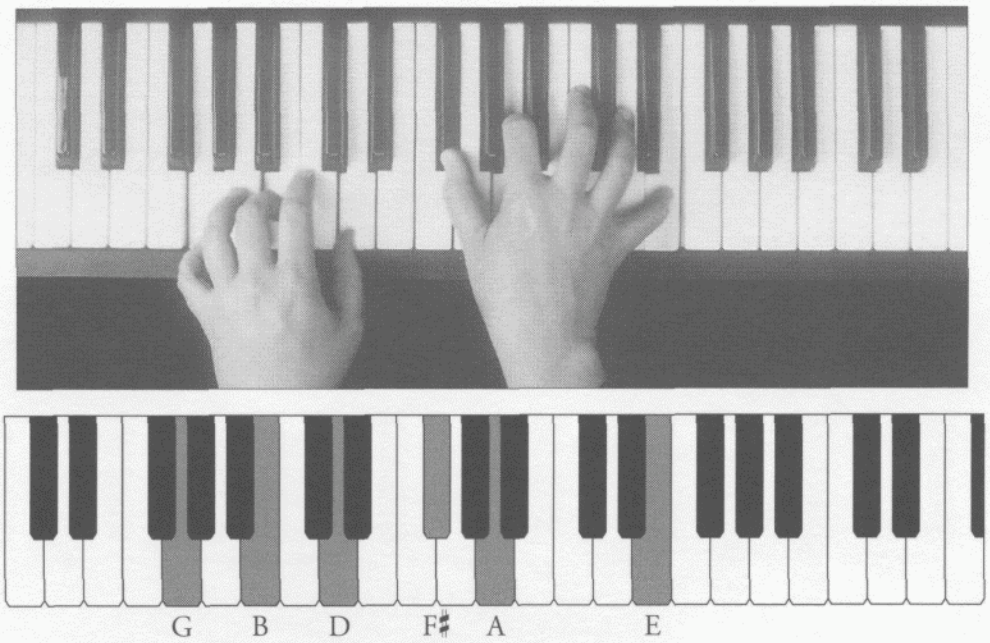
G major9



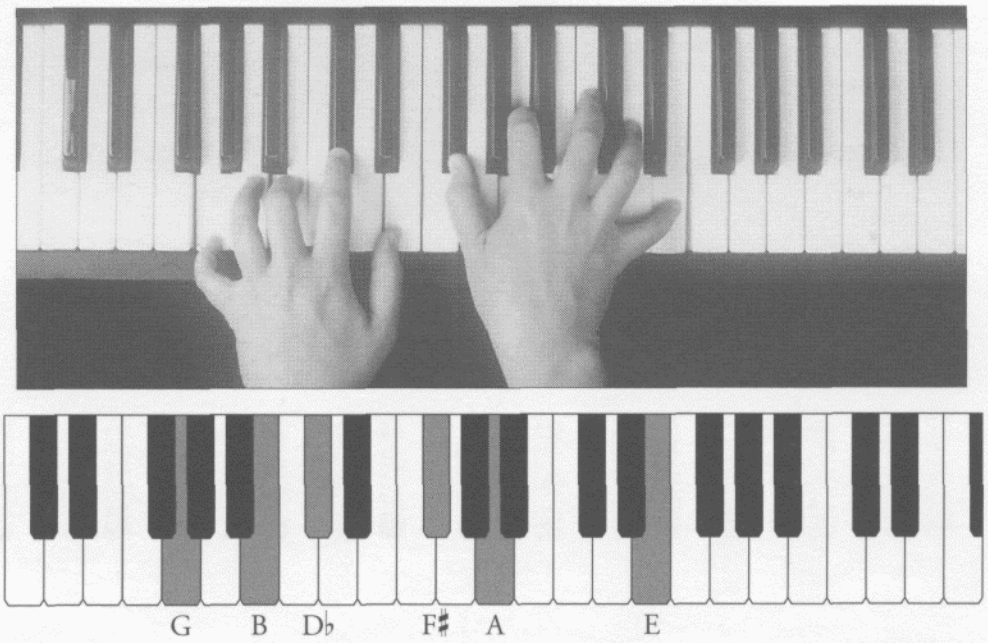
G major9♯11



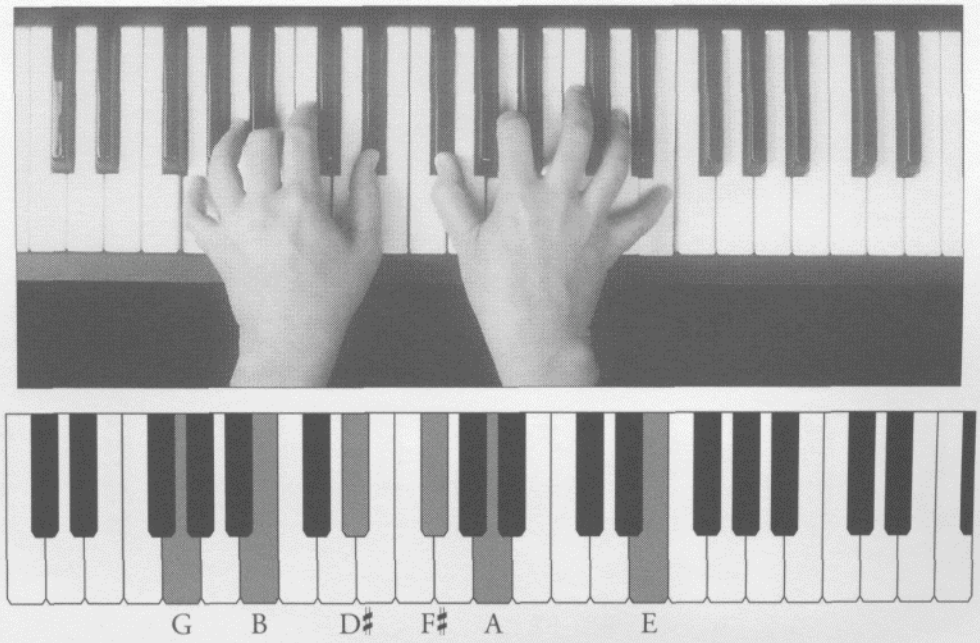
G major13



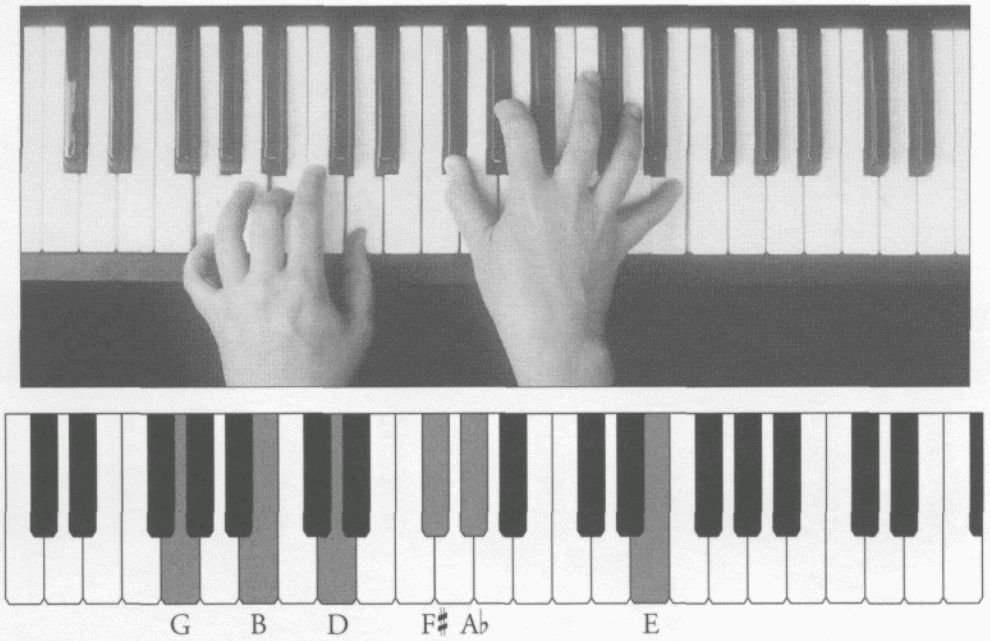
G major13♭5



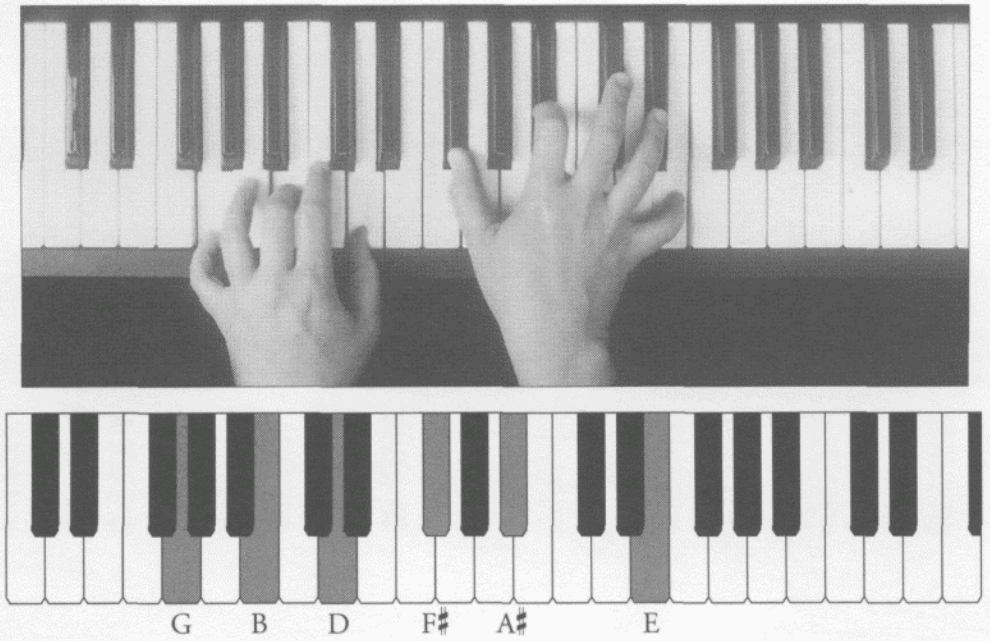
G major13♯5



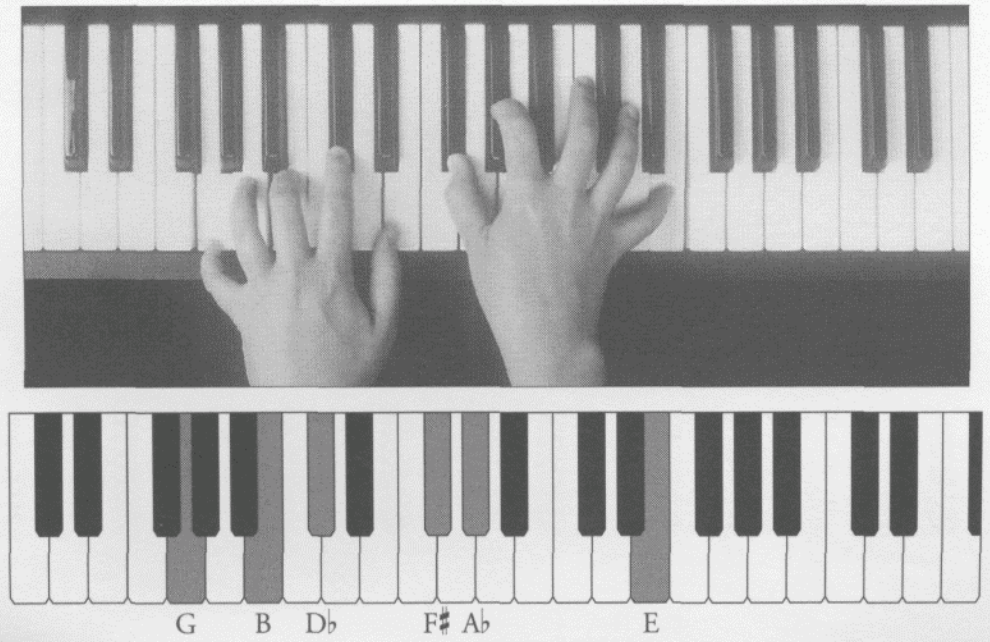
G major13♭9



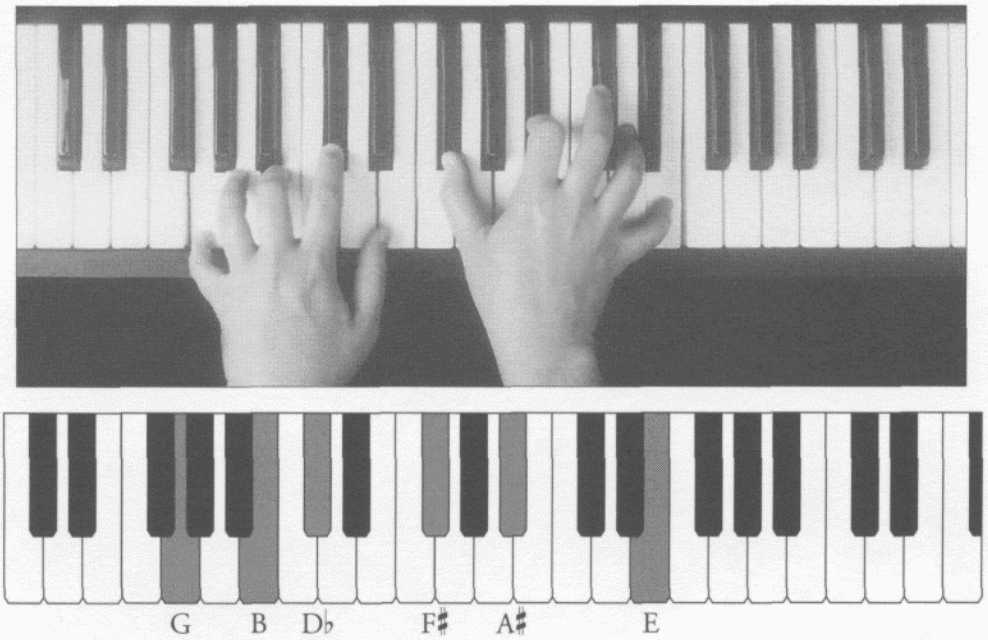
G major13♯9



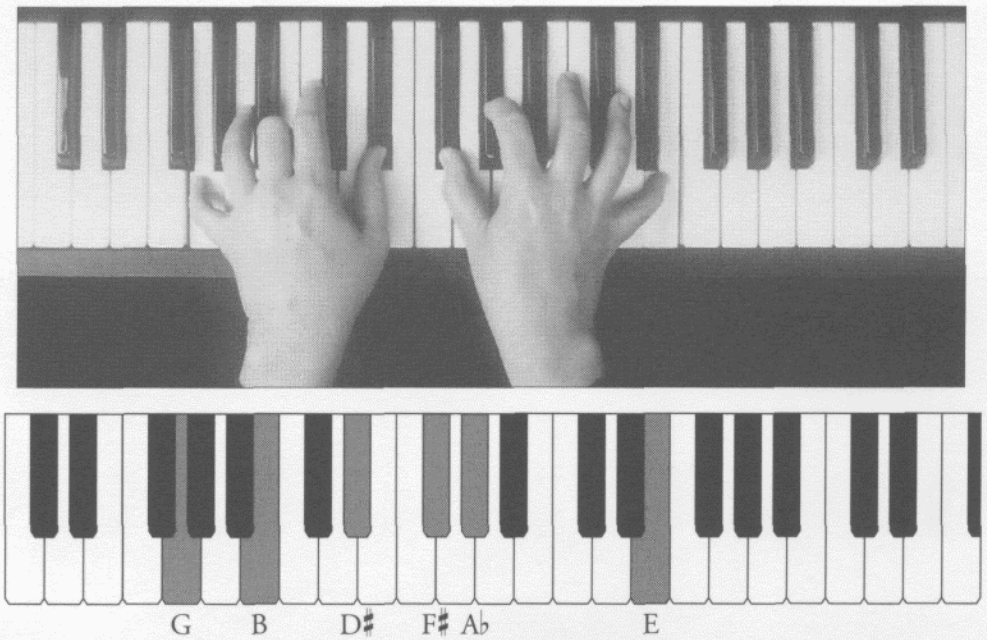
G major13♭5♭9



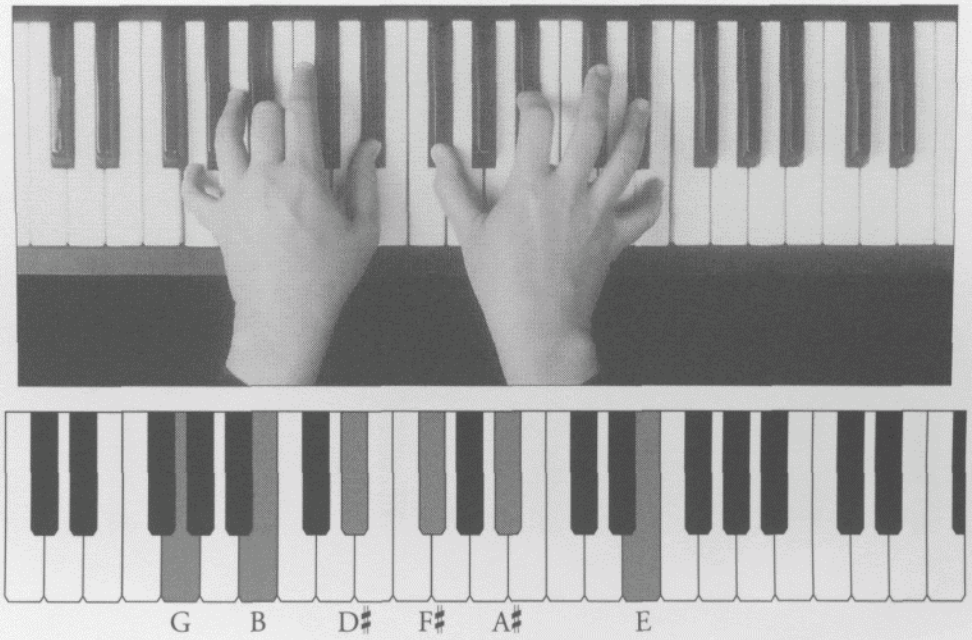
G major13♭5♯9



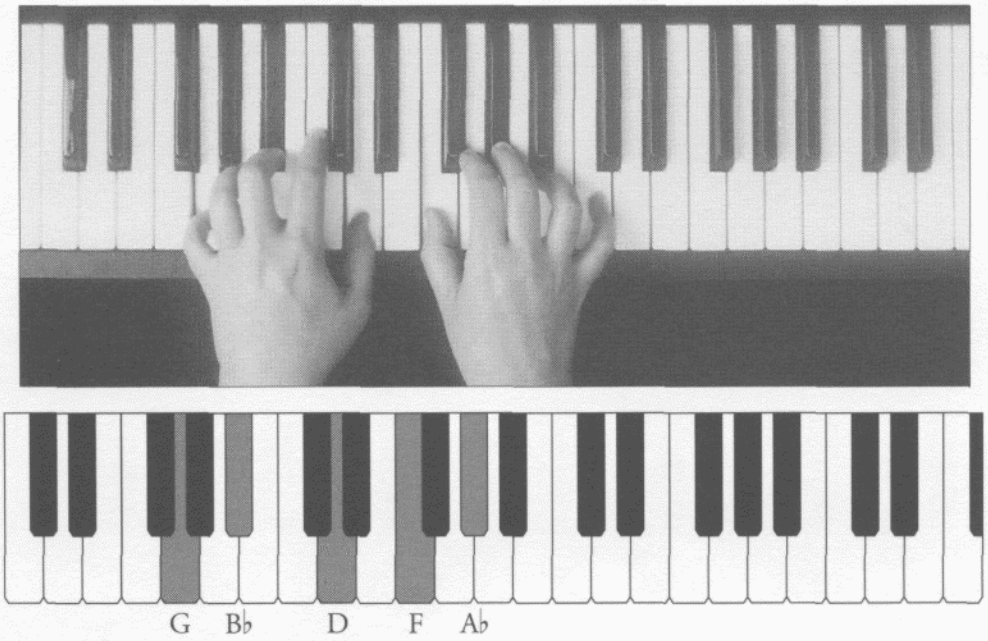
G major13♯5♭9



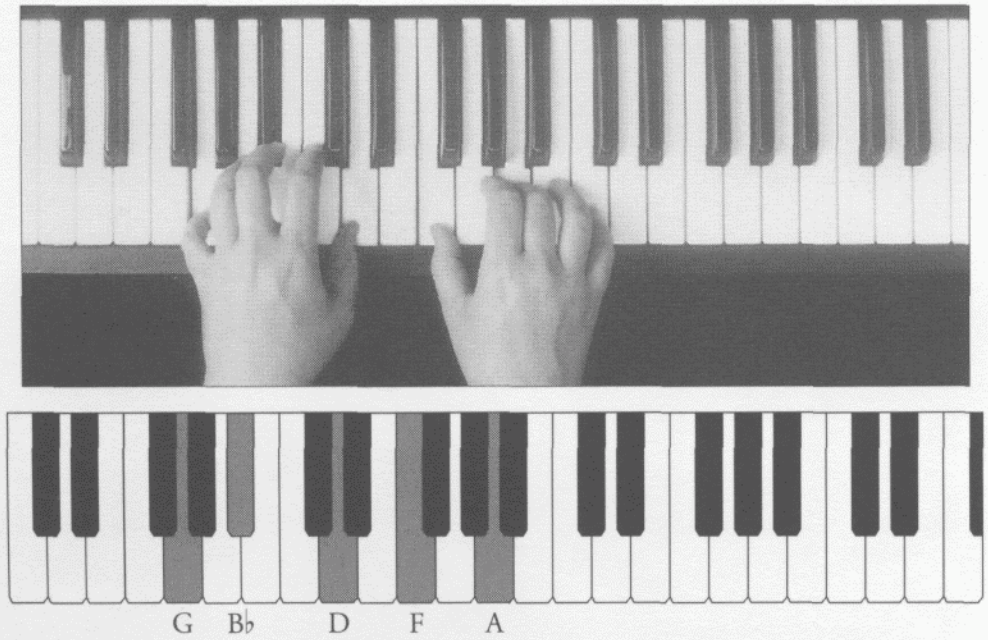
G major13♯5♯9



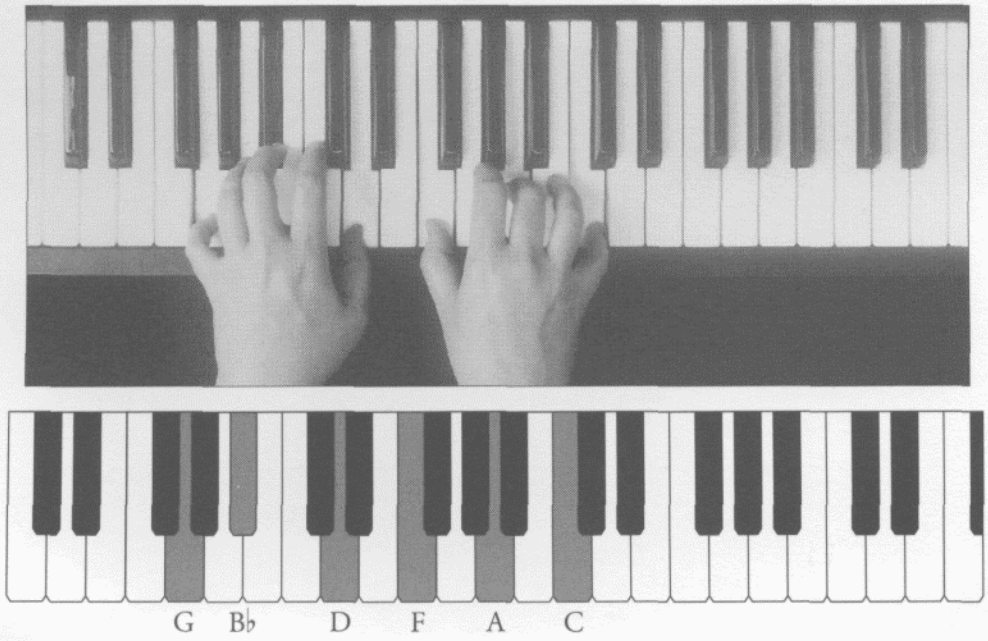
G minor7♭9



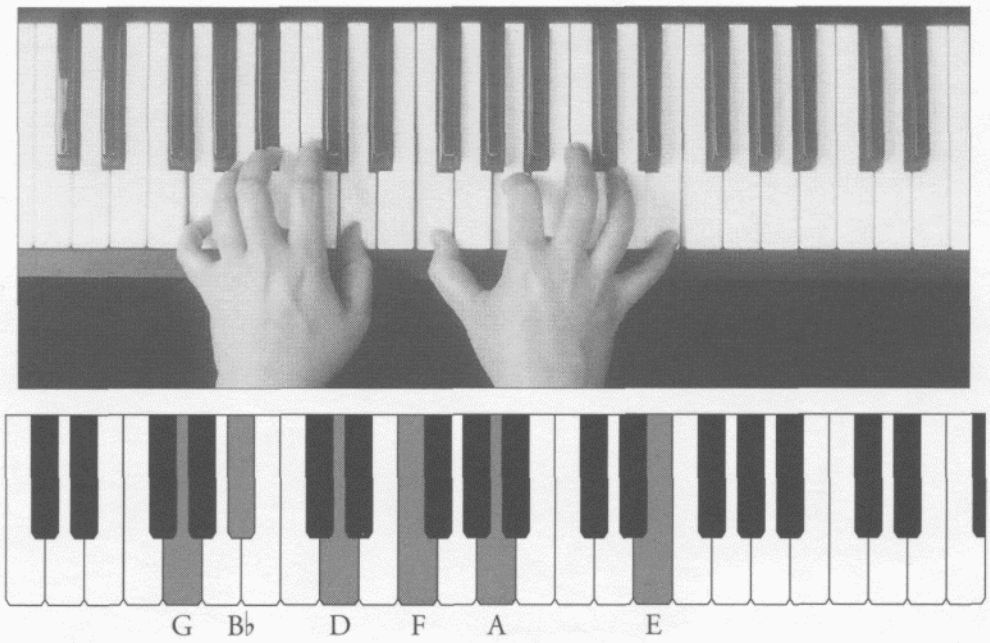
G minor9



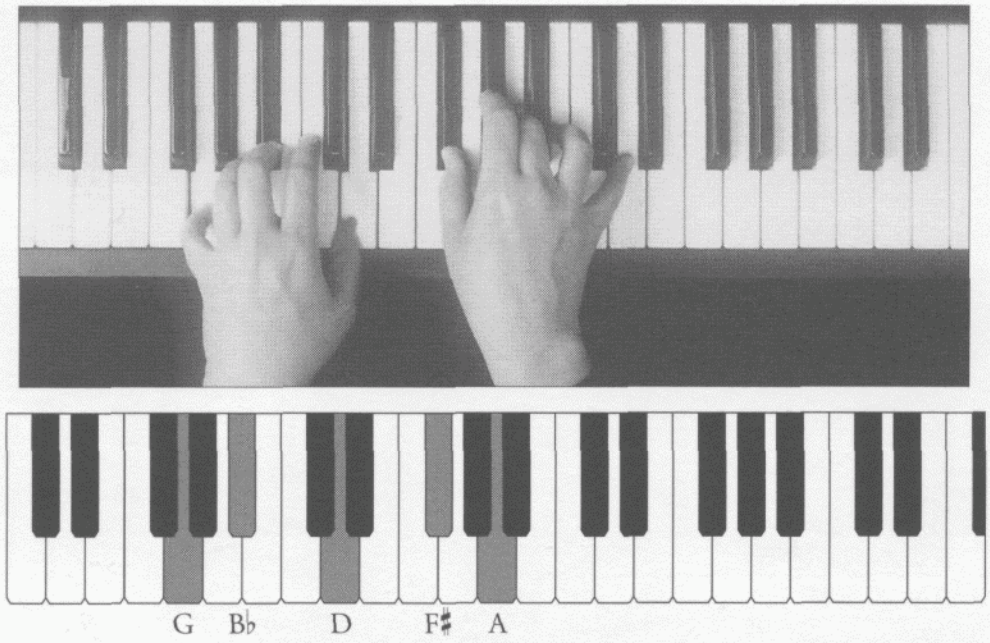
G minor11



G minor13

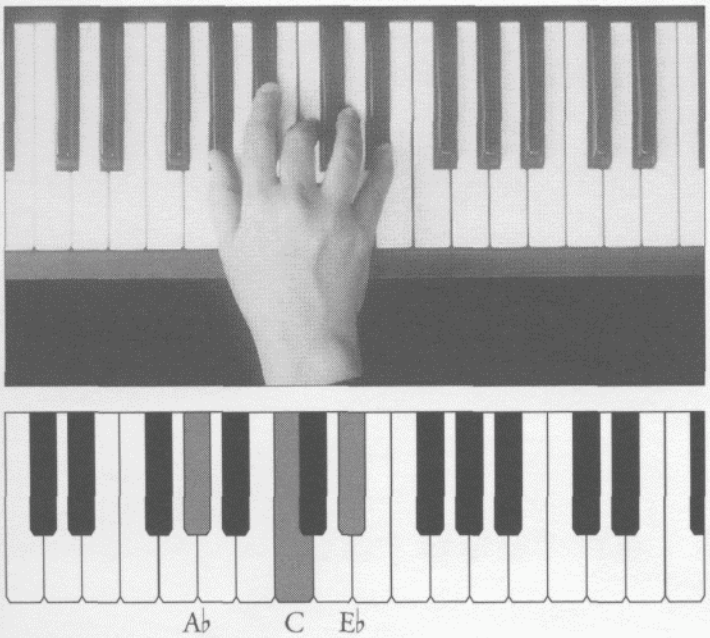


G minor9 (major7)

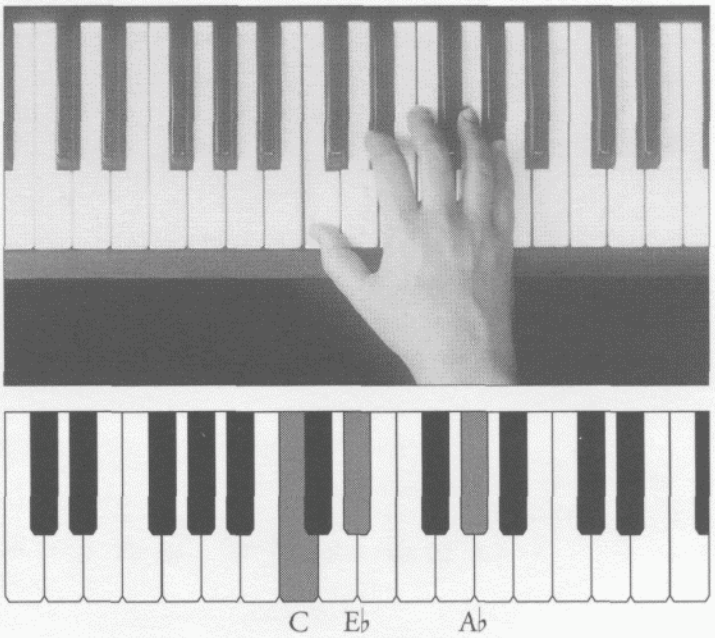


A♭ chords

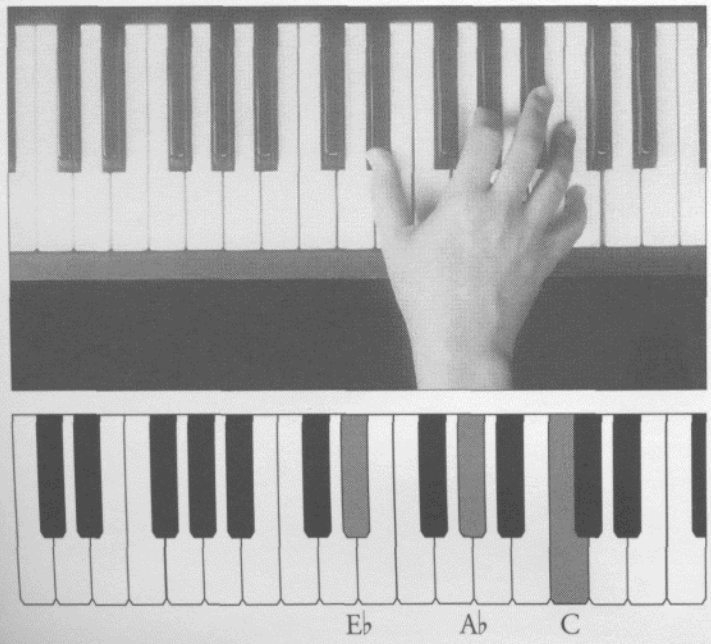
A♭ major



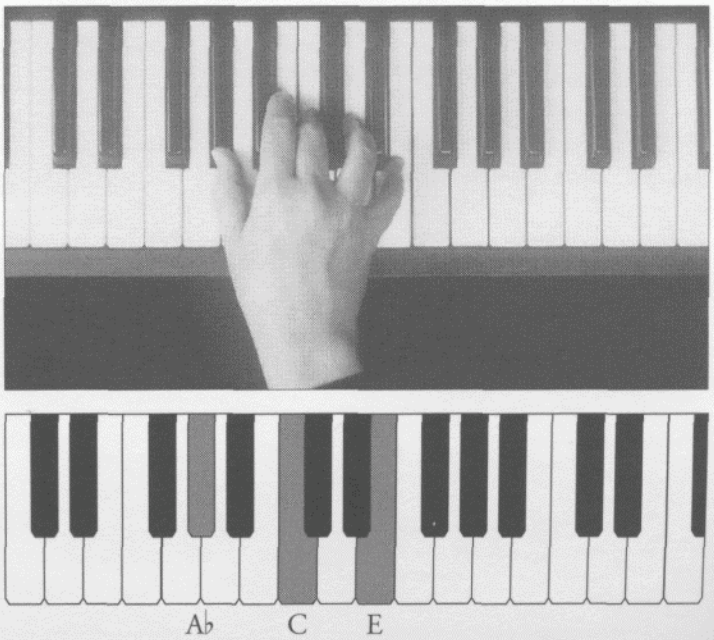
A♭/C *first inversion*



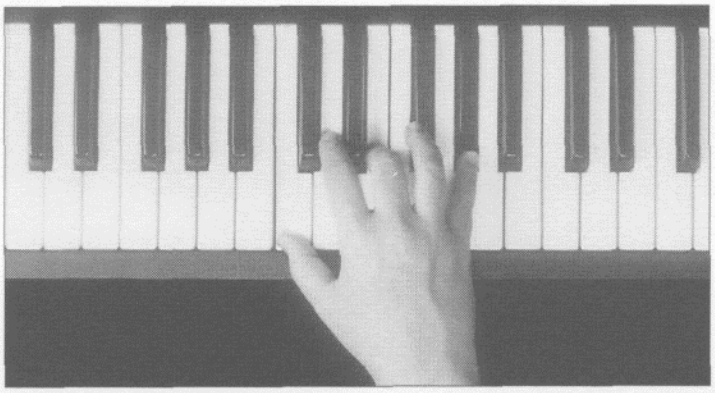
A♭/E♭ *second inversion*

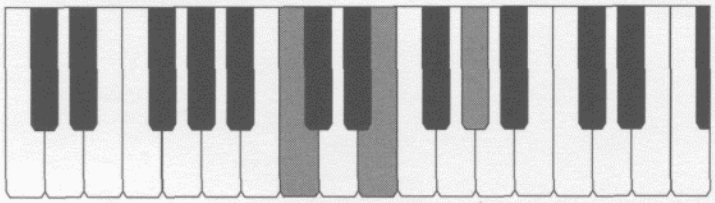


A♭ augmented

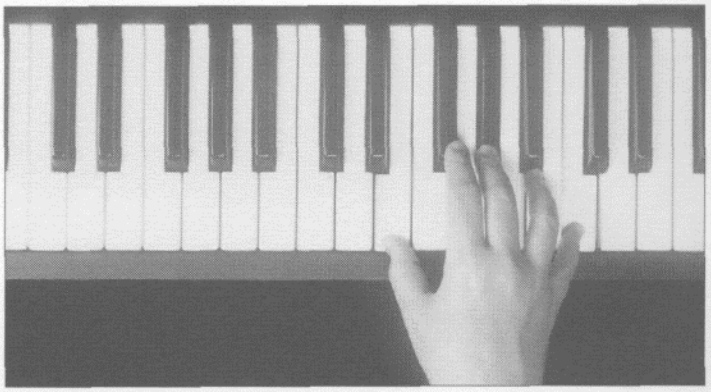


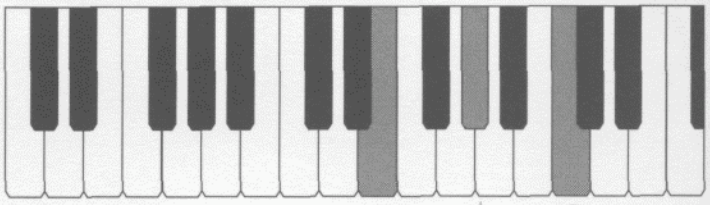
A♭ augmented *first inversion*



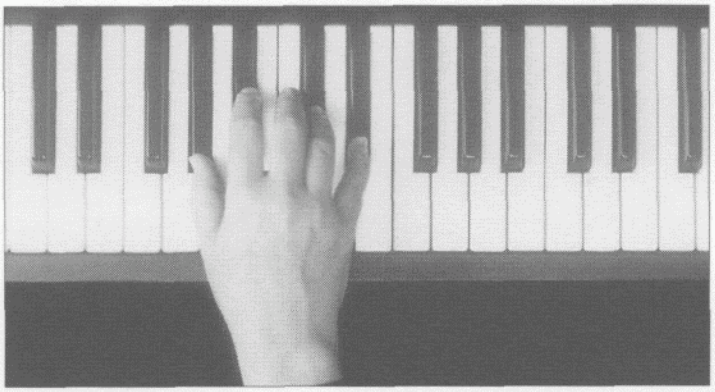


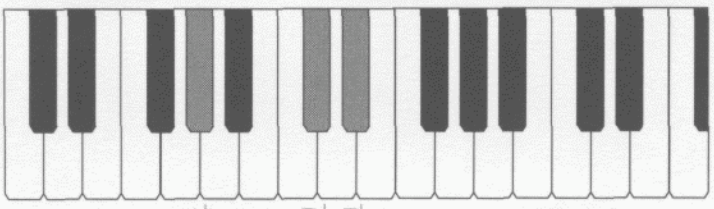
A♭ augmented *second inversion*



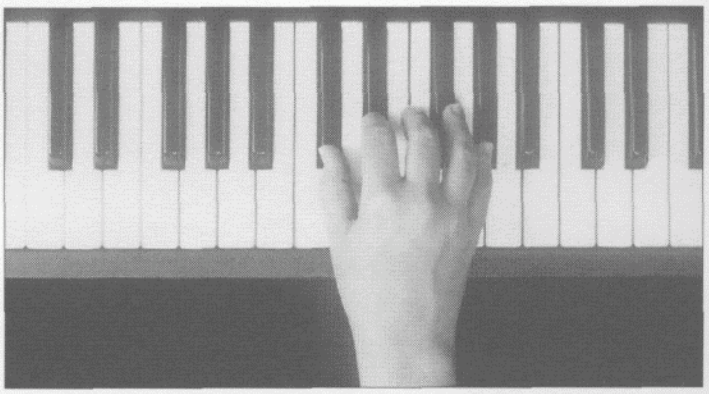


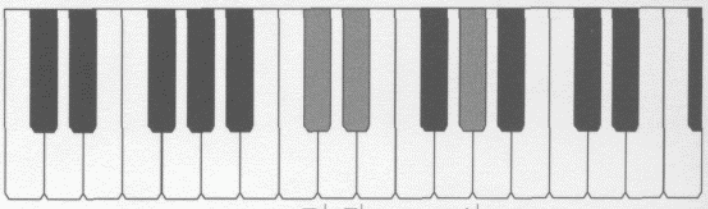
A♭sus4



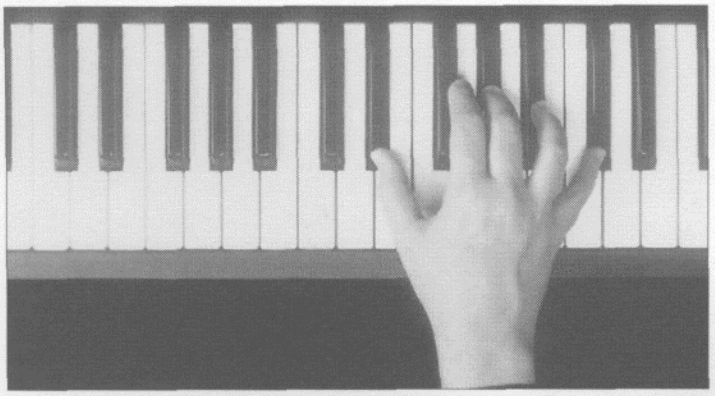


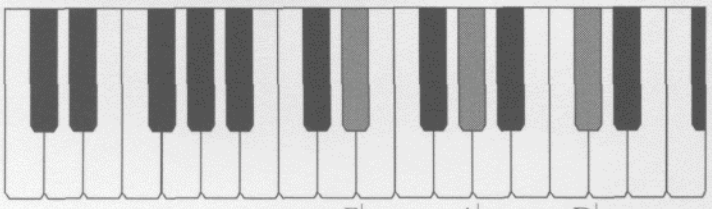
A♭sus4 *first inversion*





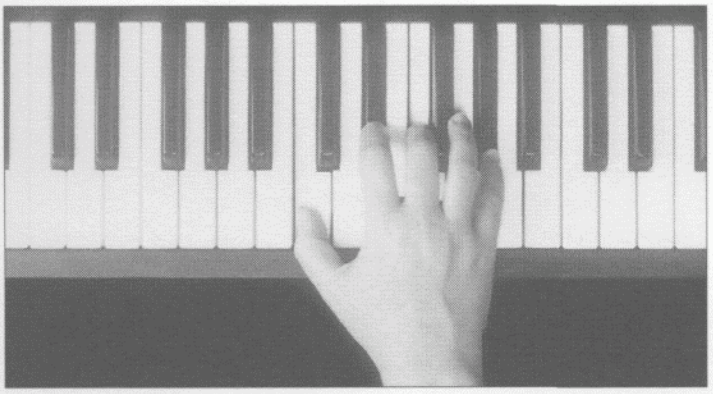
A♭sus4 *second inversion*

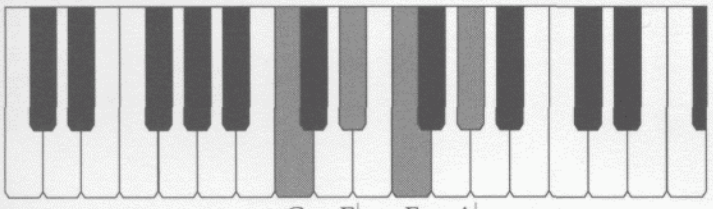




A♭6

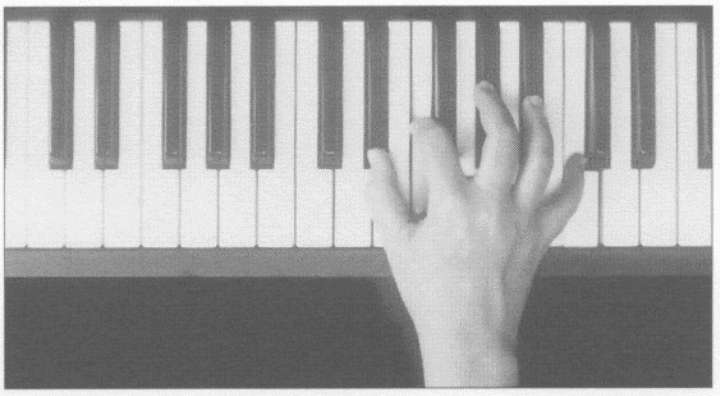
A♭6 *first inversion*

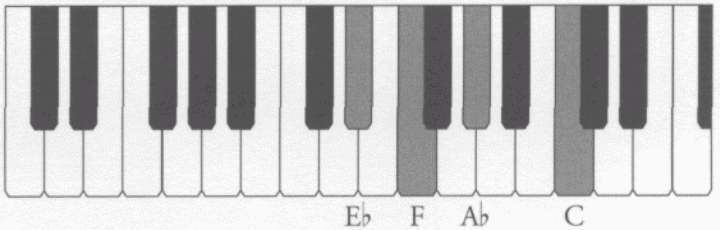




C E♭ F A♭

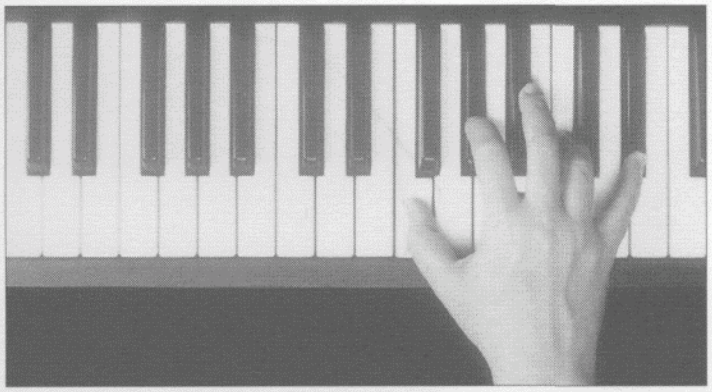
A♭6 *second inversion*

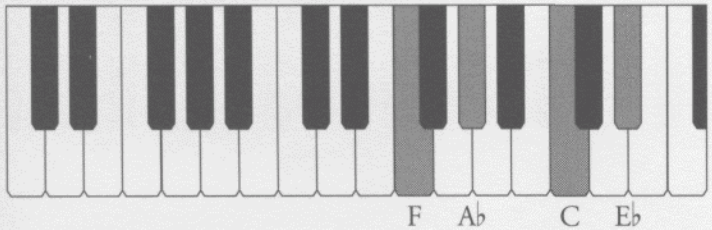




E♭ F A♭ C

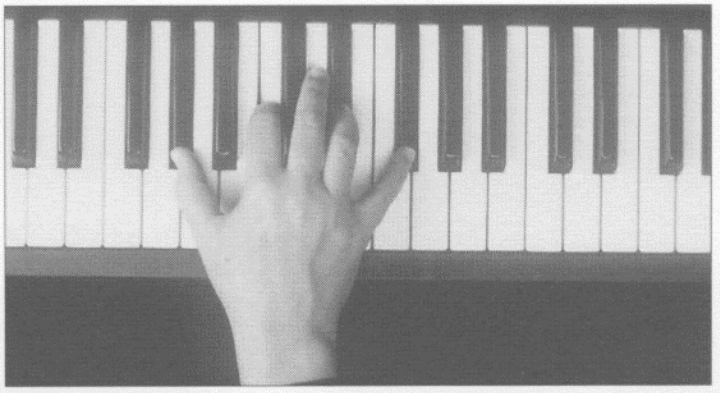
A♭6 *third inversion*

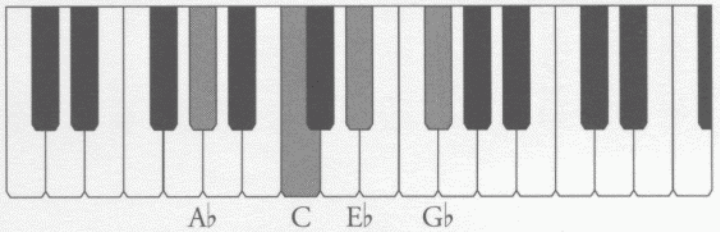




F A♭ C E♭

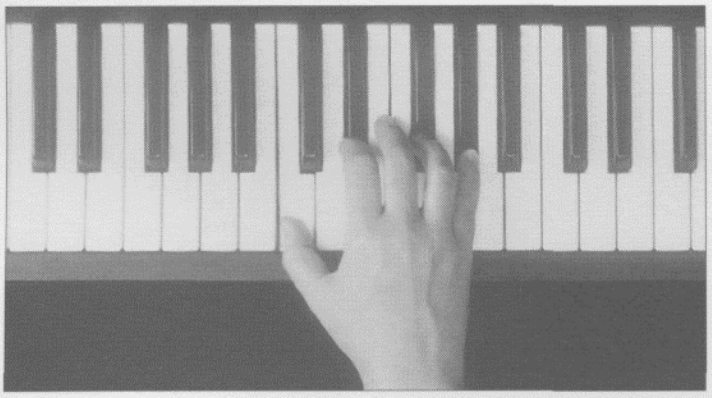
A♭7





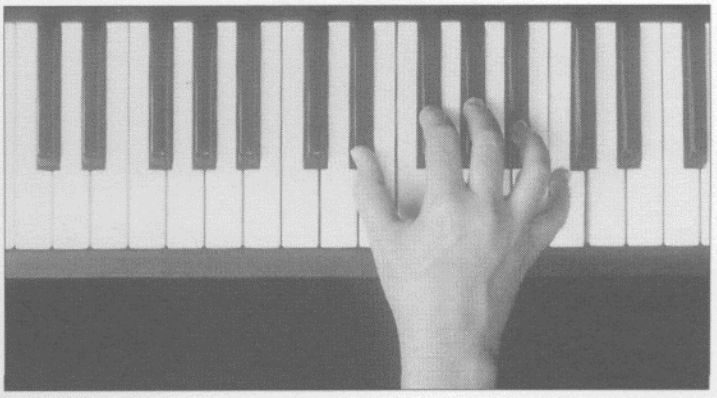
A♭ C E♭ G♭

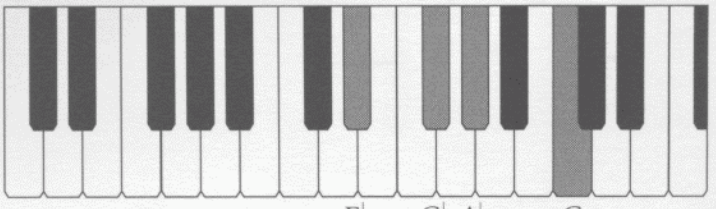
A♭7 *first inversion*



C E♭ G♭ A♭

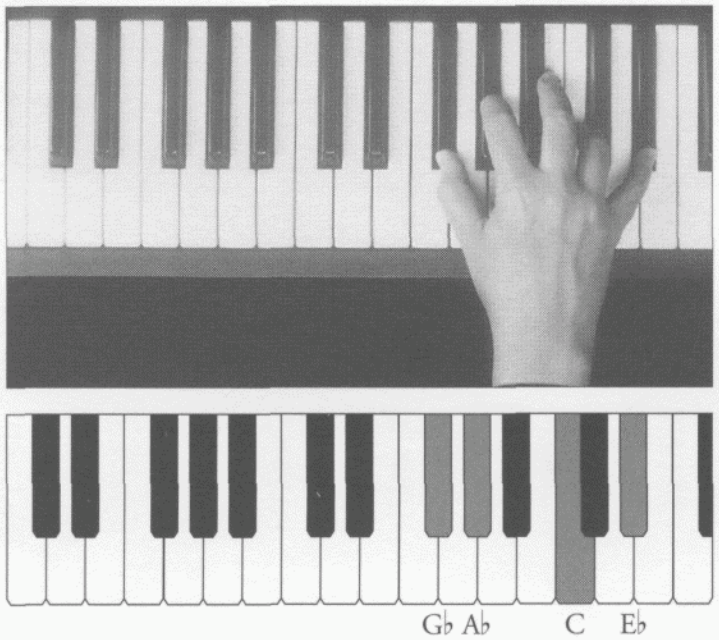
A♭7 *second inversion*



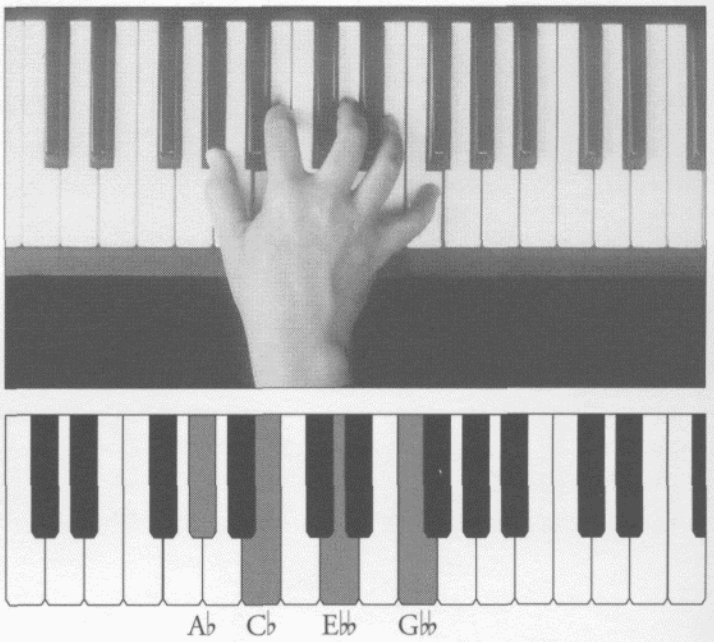


E♭ G♭ A♭ C

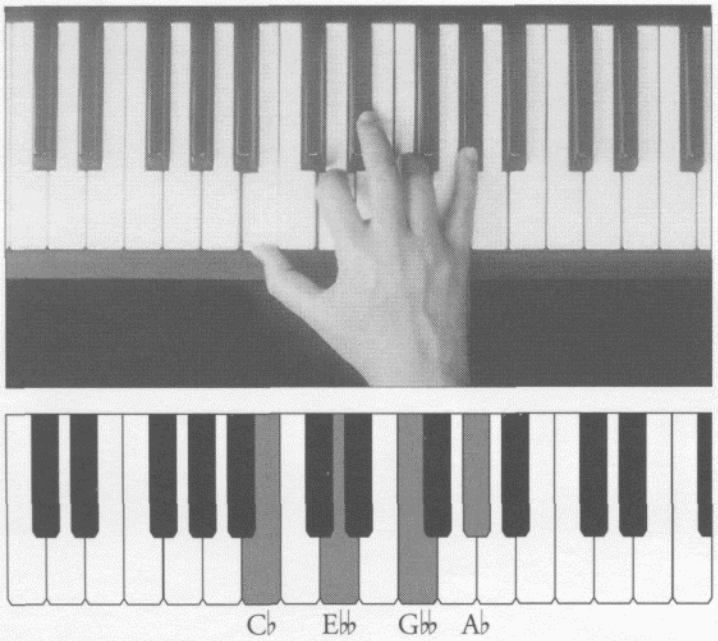
A♭7 *third inversion*



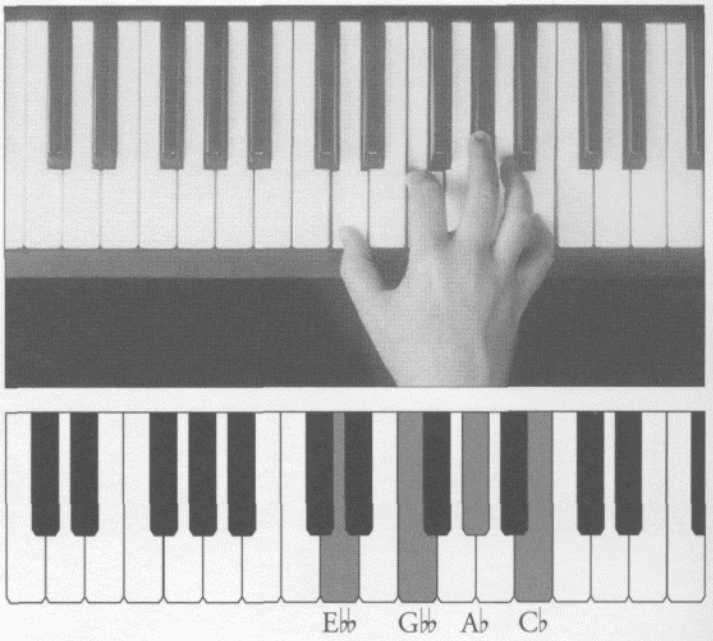
A♭°7



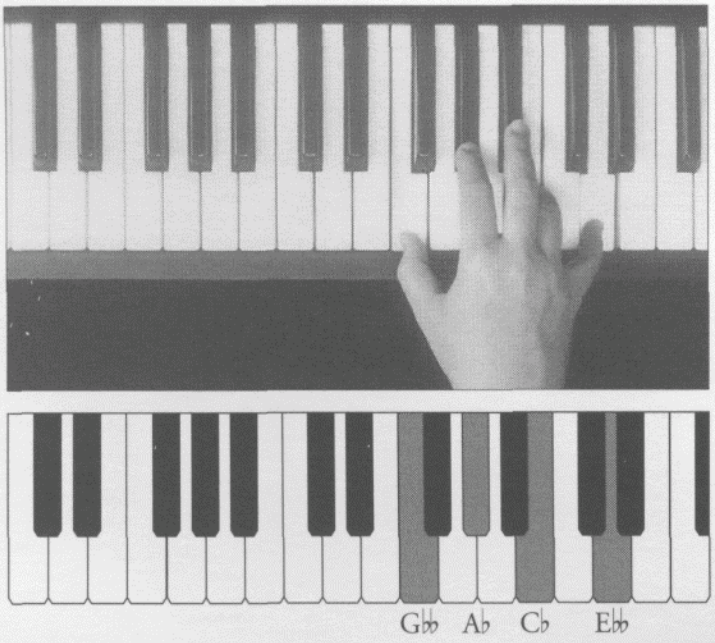
A♭°7 *first inversion*



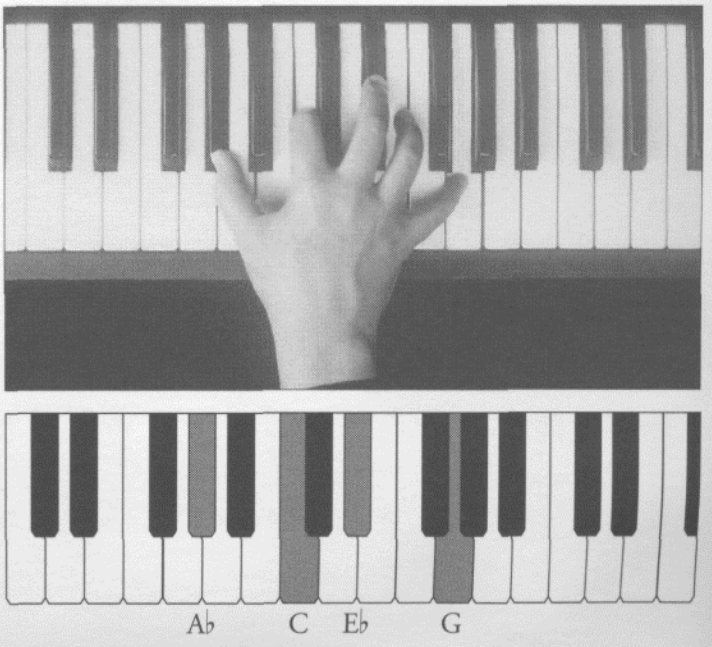
A♭°7 *second inversion*



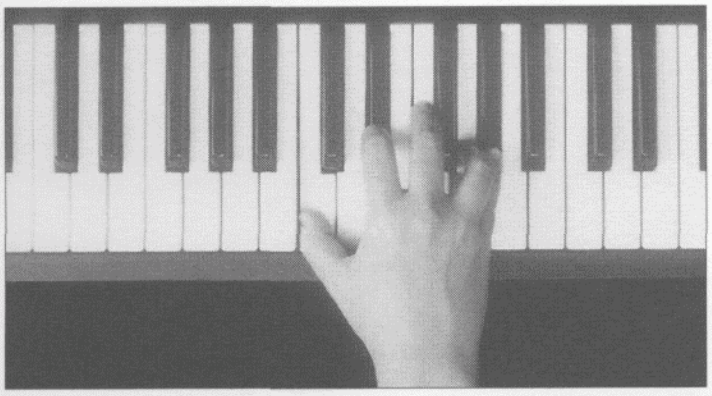
A♭°7 *third inversion*

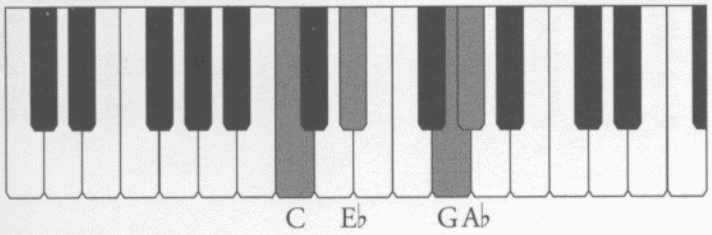


A♭ major7

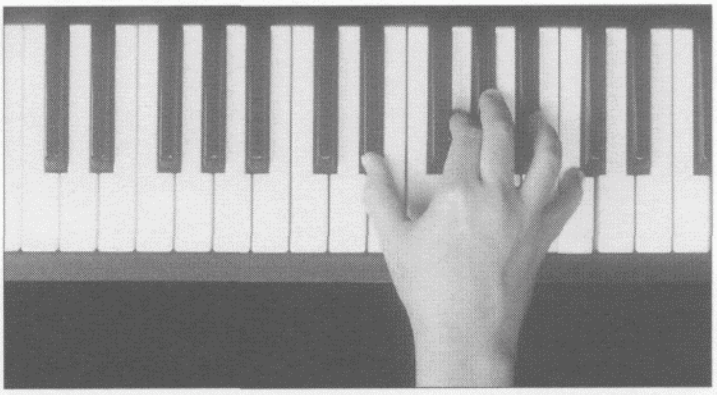


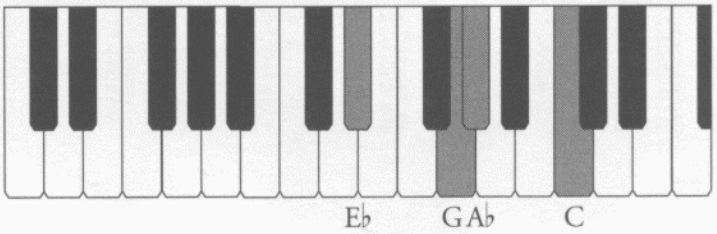
A♭ major7 *first inversion*



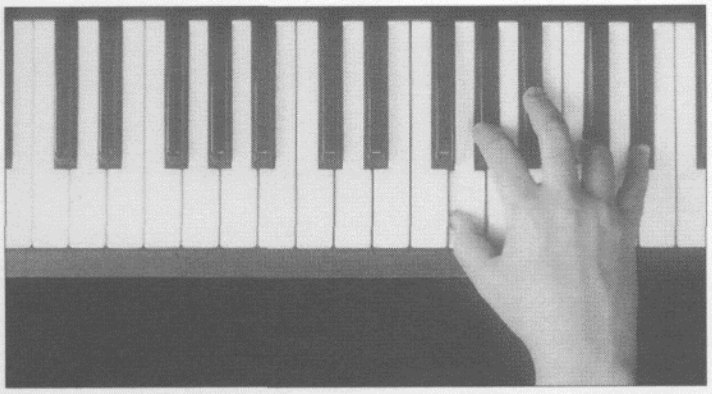


A♭ major7 *second inversion*

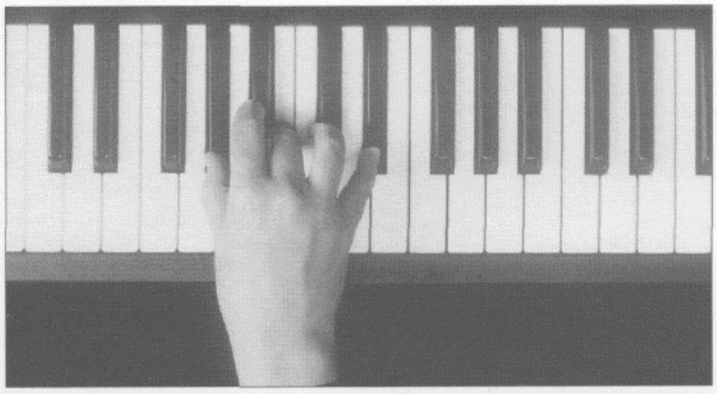


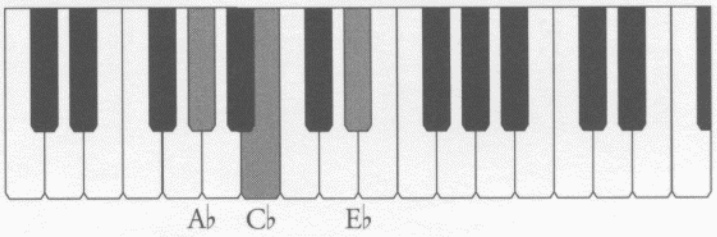


A♭ major7 *third inversion*

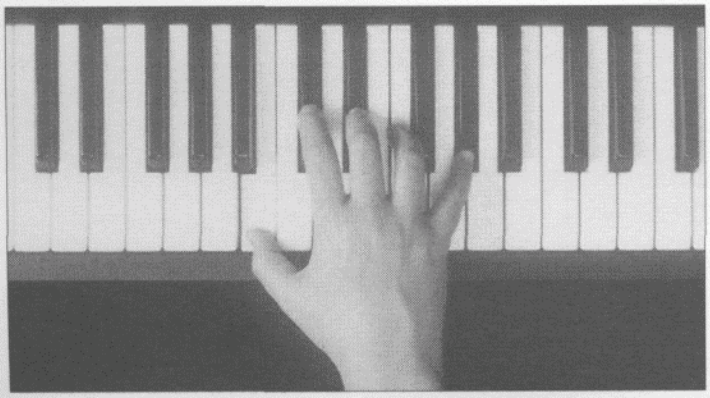


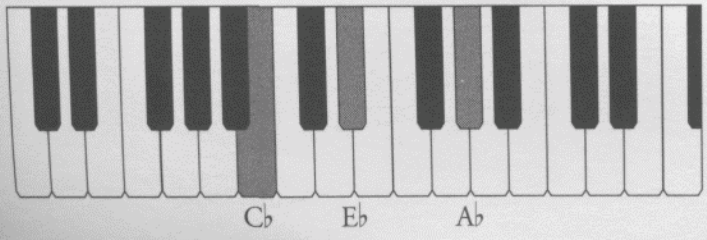
A♭ minor



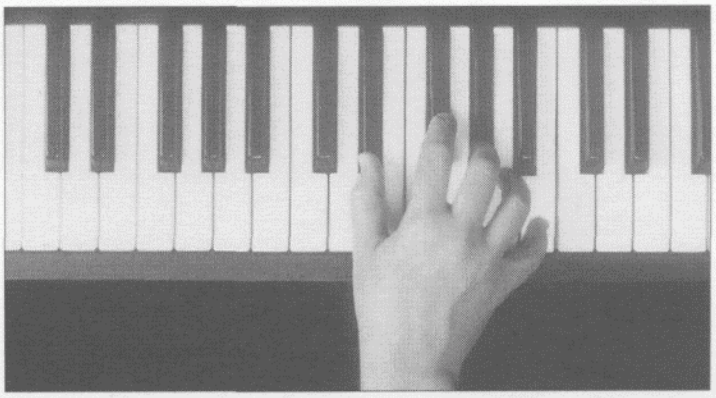


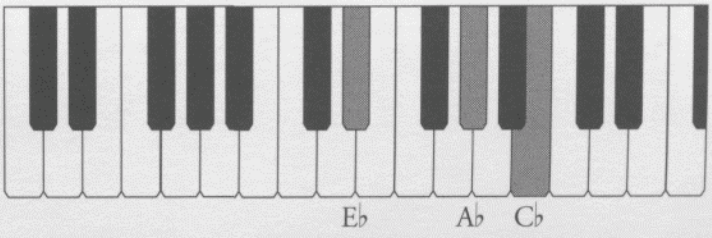
A♭ minor *first inversion*



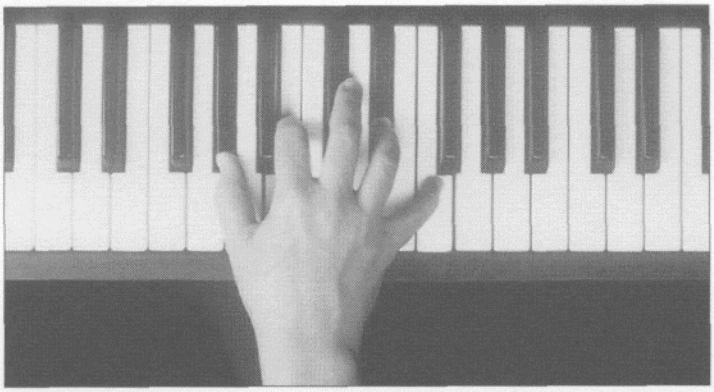


A♭ minor *second inversion*

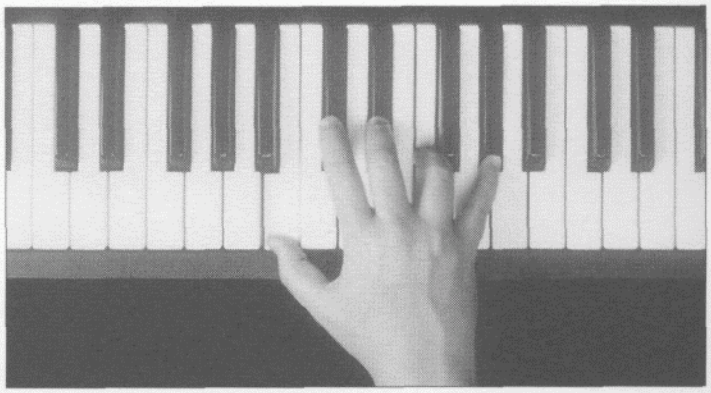


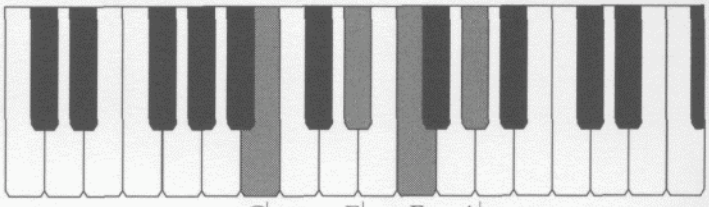


A♭ minor6

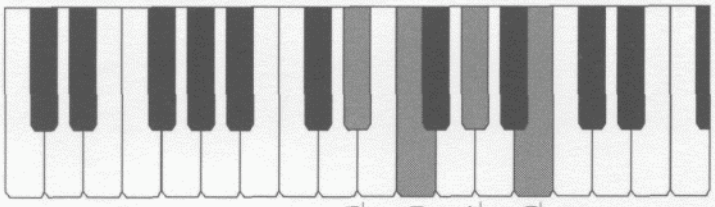


A♭ minor6 *first inversion*

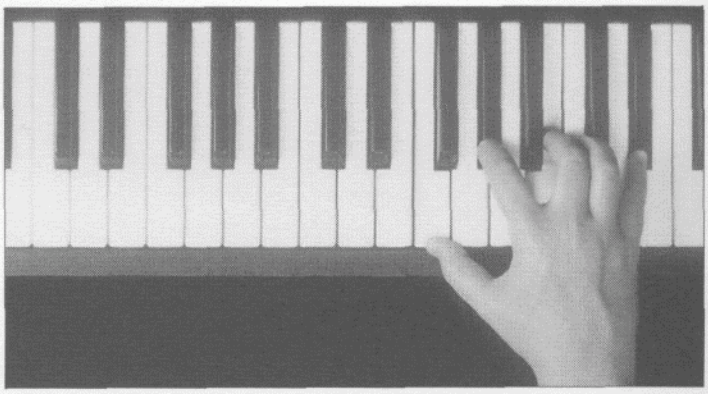


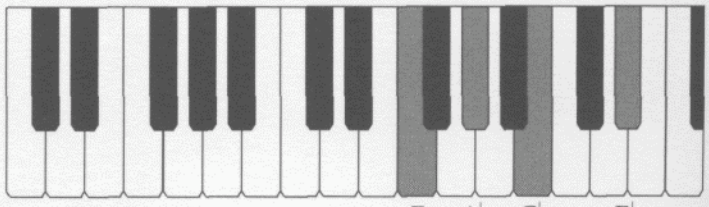


A♭ minor6 *second inversion*

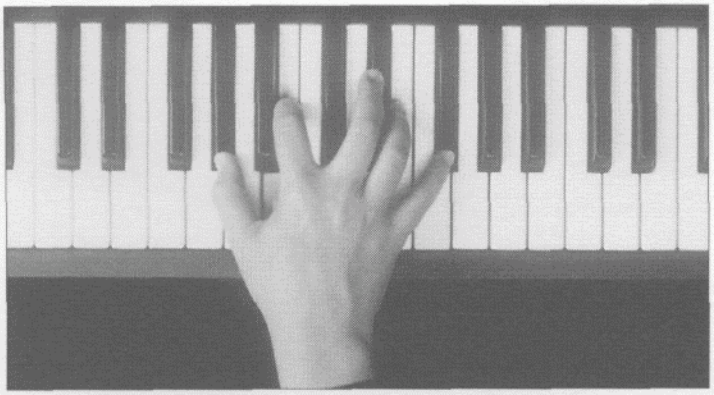


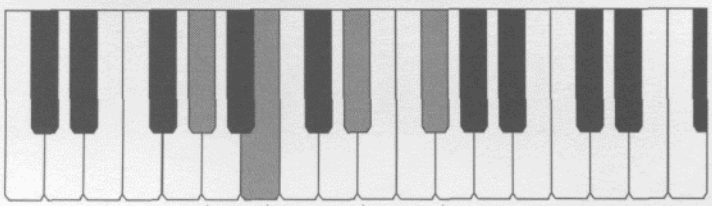
A♭ minor6 *third inversion*



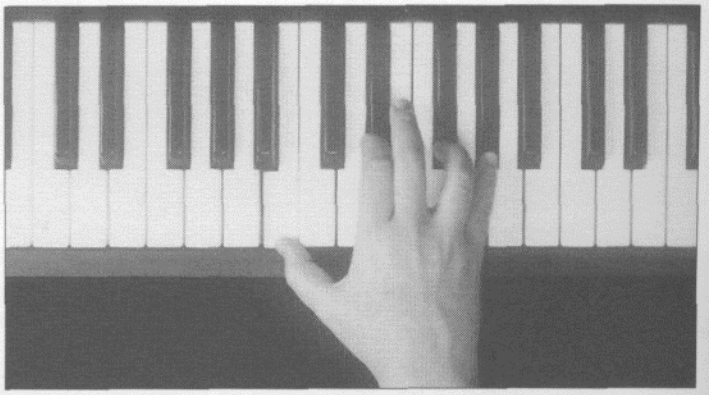


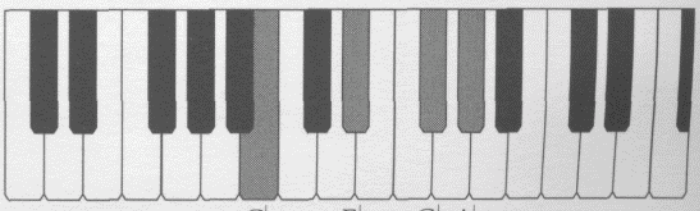
A♭ minor7



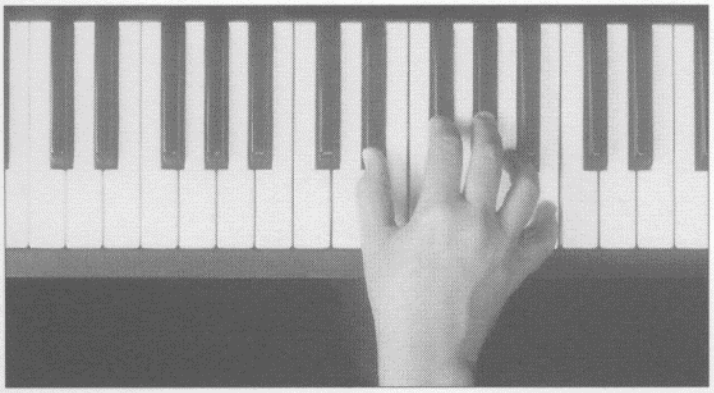


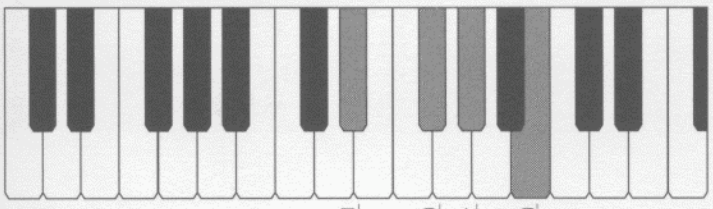
A♭ minor7 *first inversion*



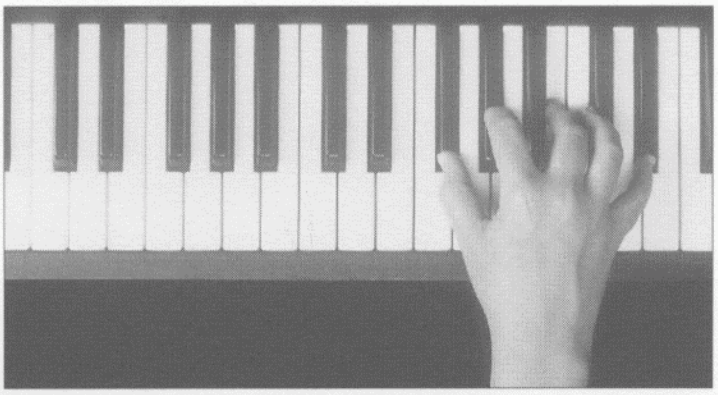


A♭ minor7 *second inversion*

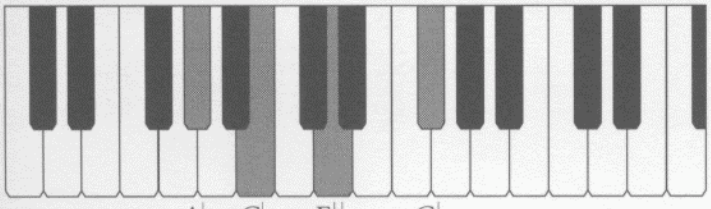




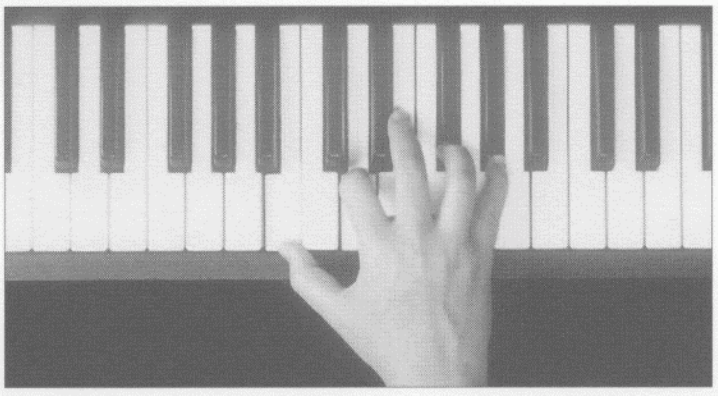
A♭ minor7 *third inversion*



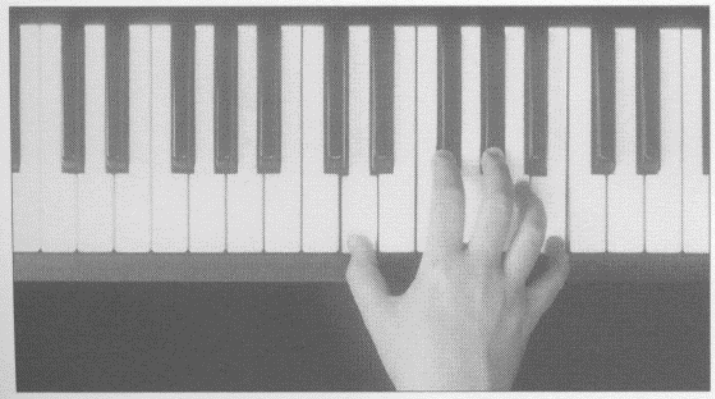
A♭ minor7♭5



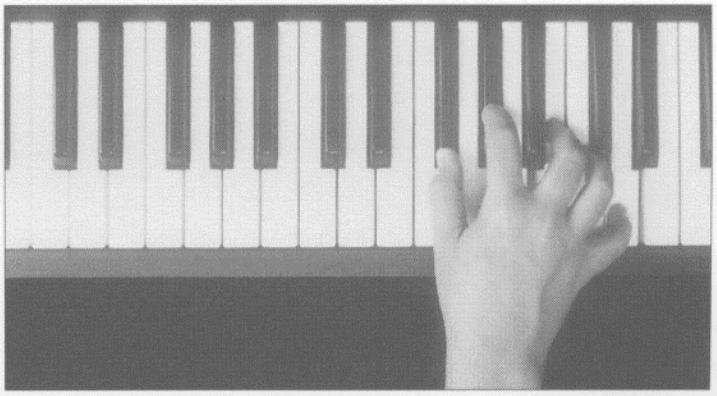
A♭ minor7♭5 *first inversion*

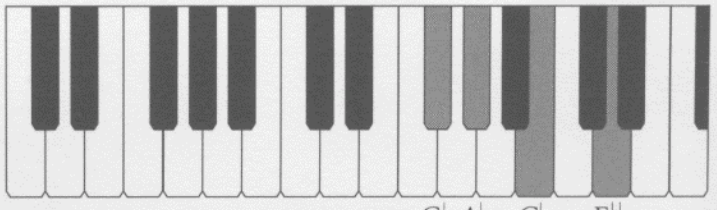


A♭ minor7♭5 *second inversion*

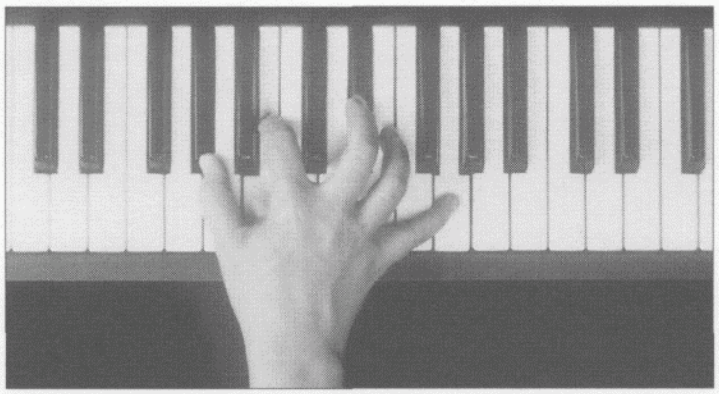


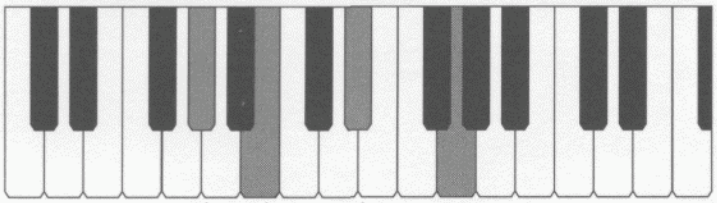
A♭ minor7♭5 *third inversion*



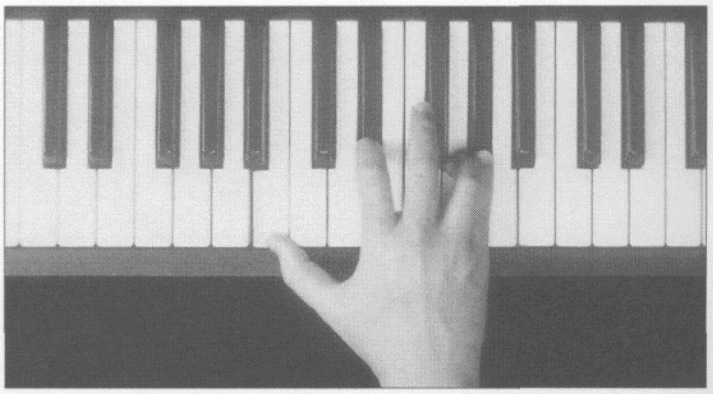


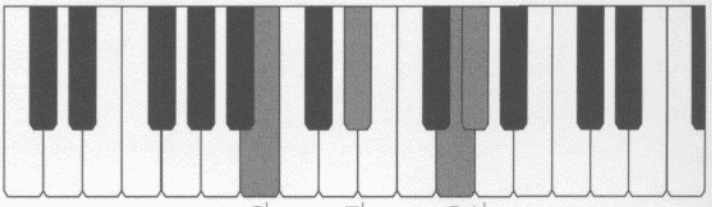
A♭ minor (major7)



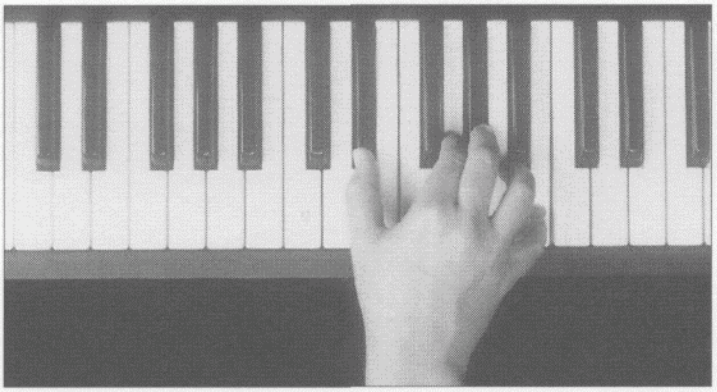


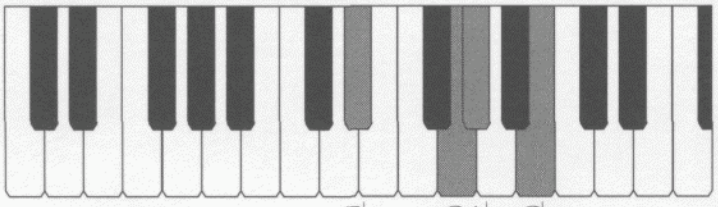
A♭ minor (major7) *first inversion*



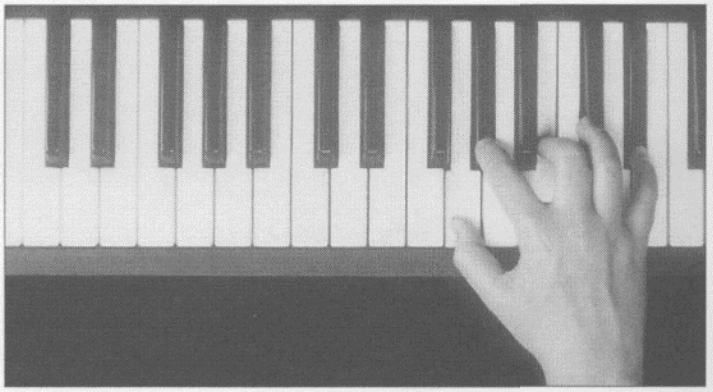


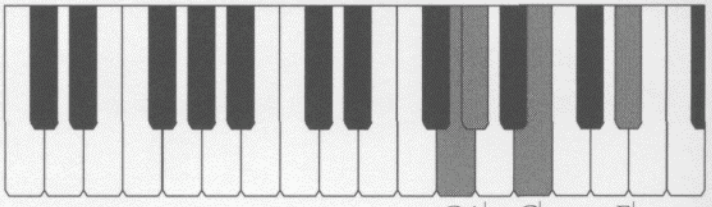
A♭ minor (major7) *second inversion*





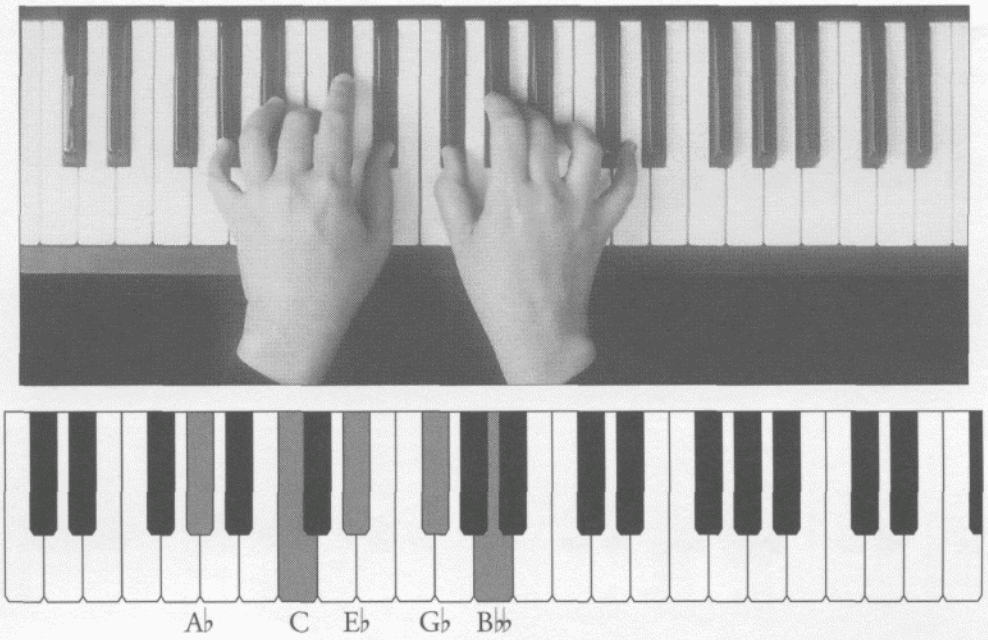
A♭ minor (major7) *third inversion*



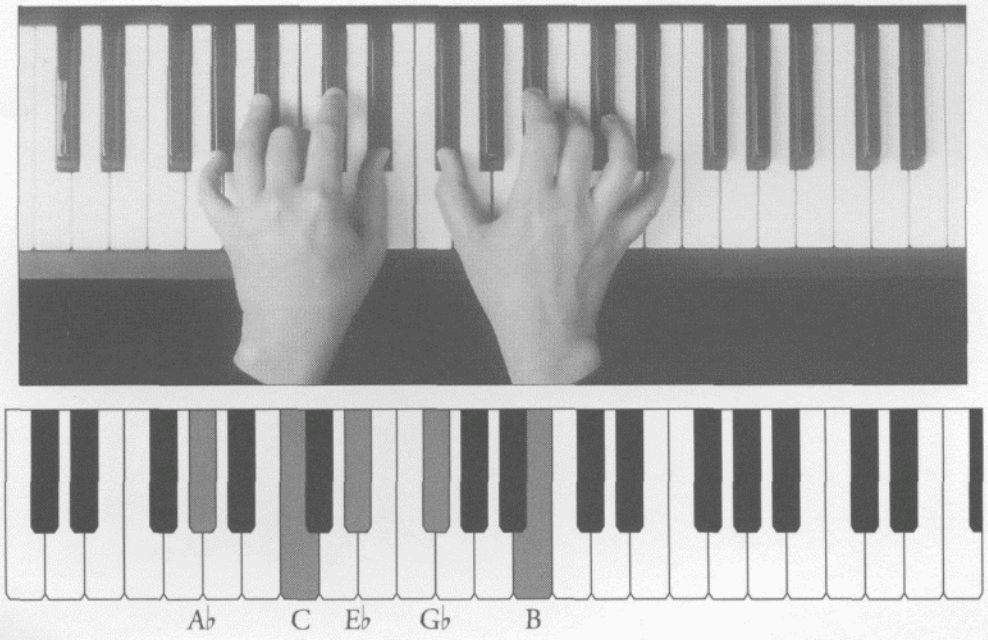


A♭ chords
using both hands

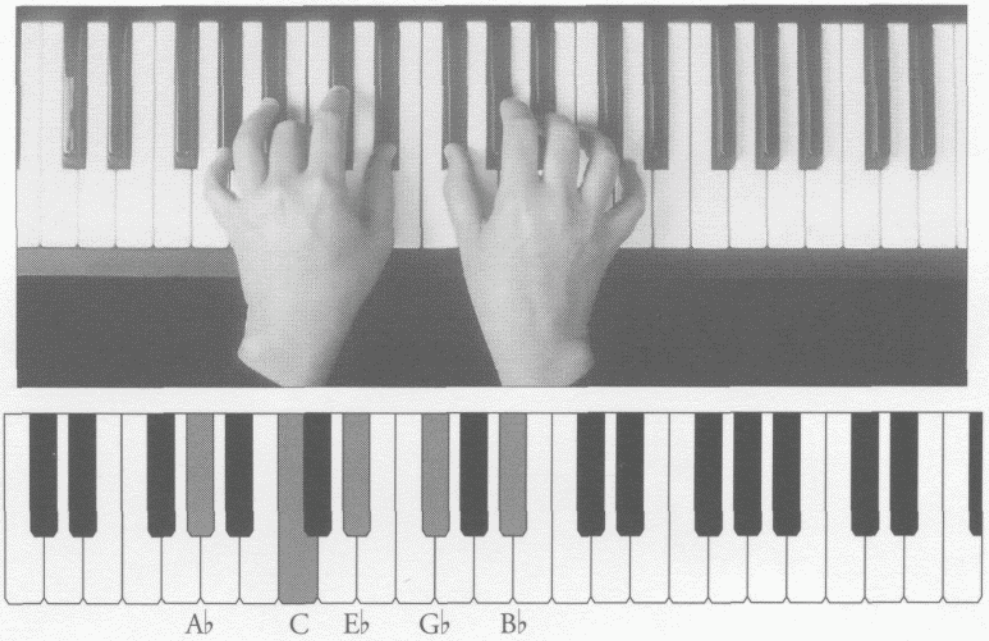
A♭7♭9



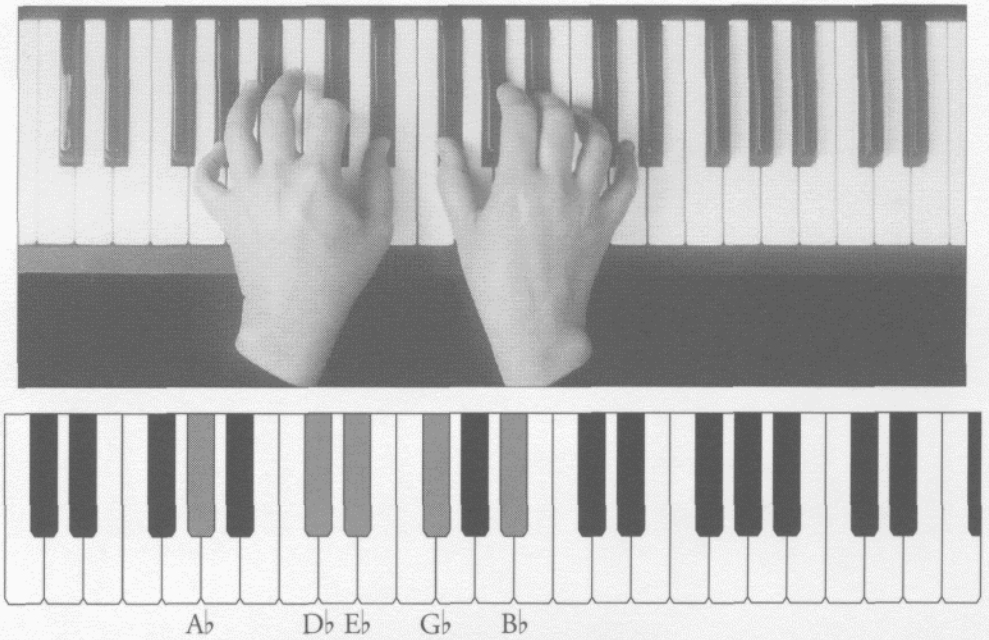
A♭7♯9



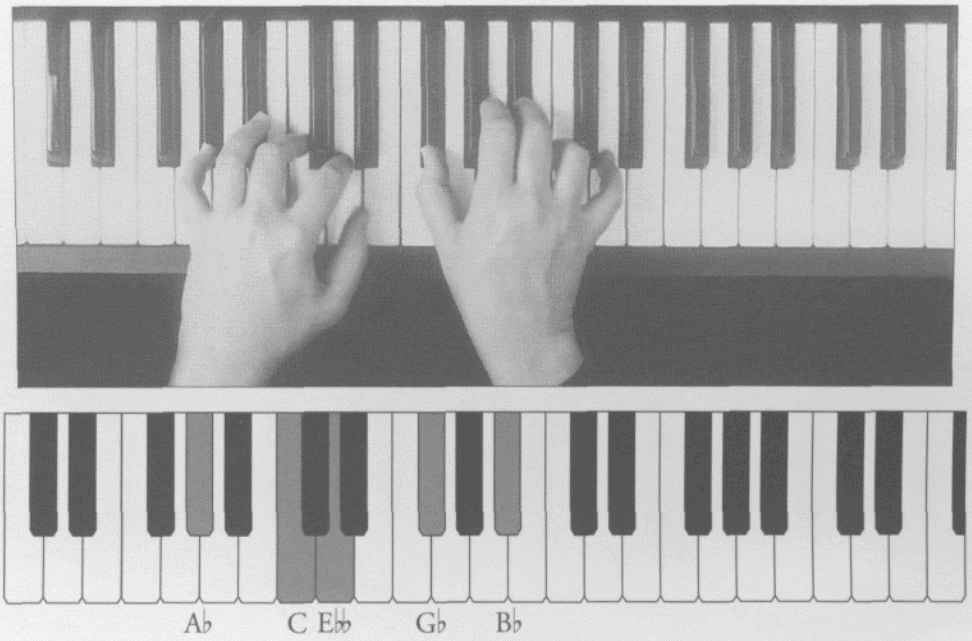
A♭9



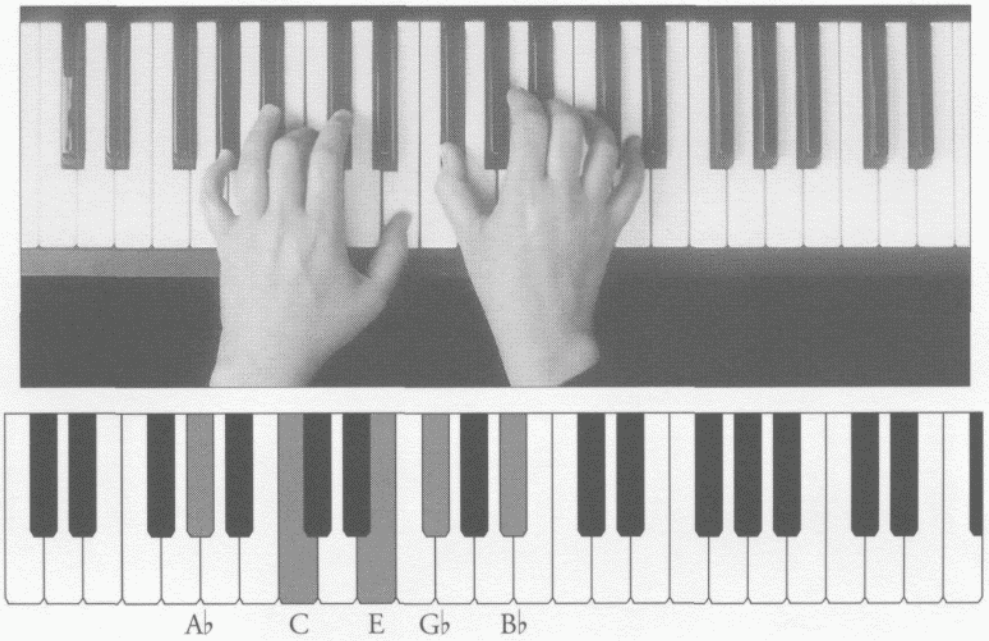
A♭9sus4



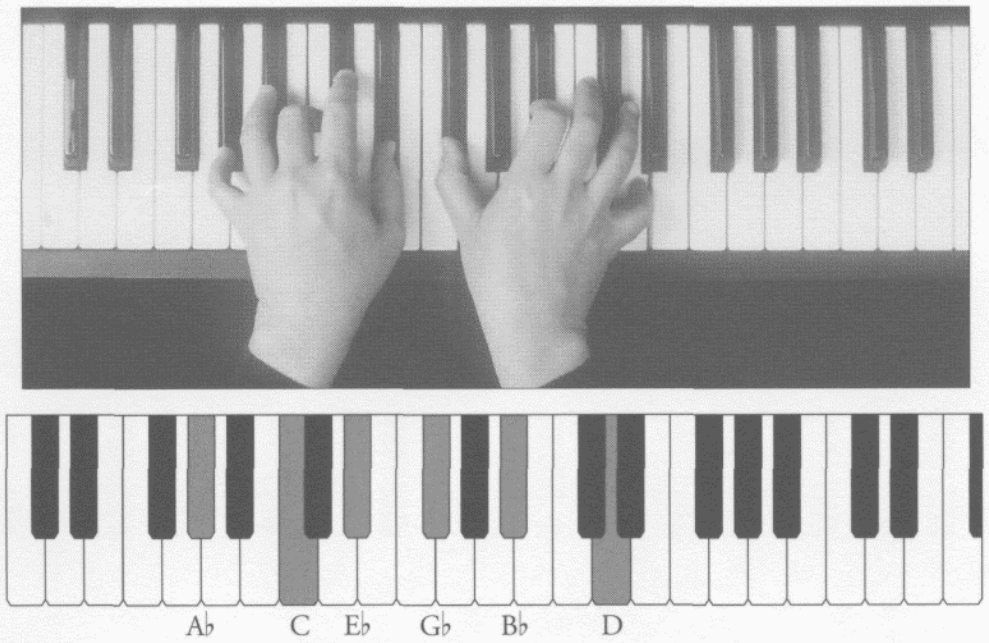
A♭9♭5



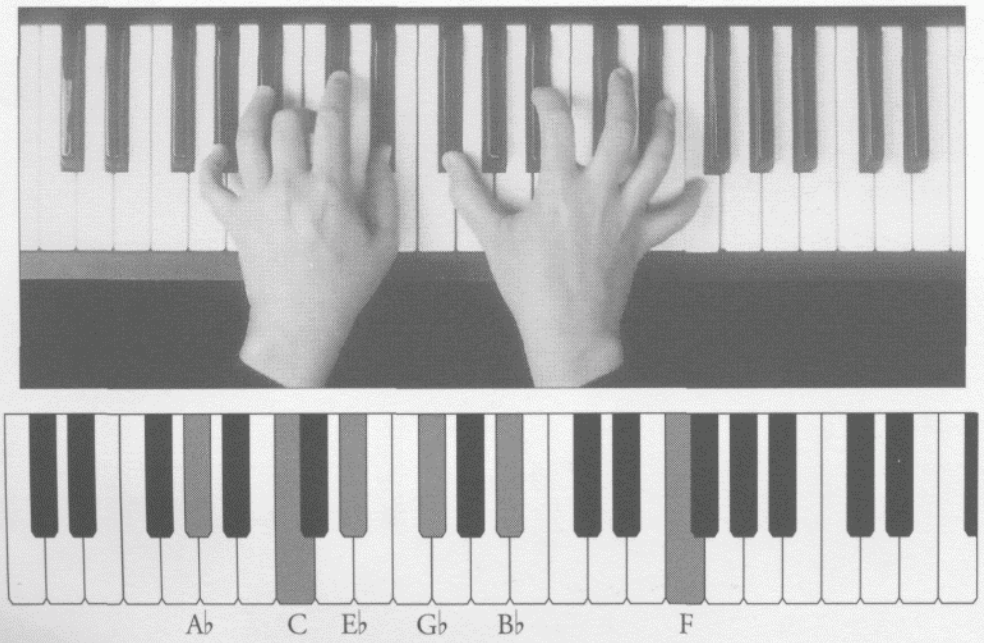
A♭9♯5



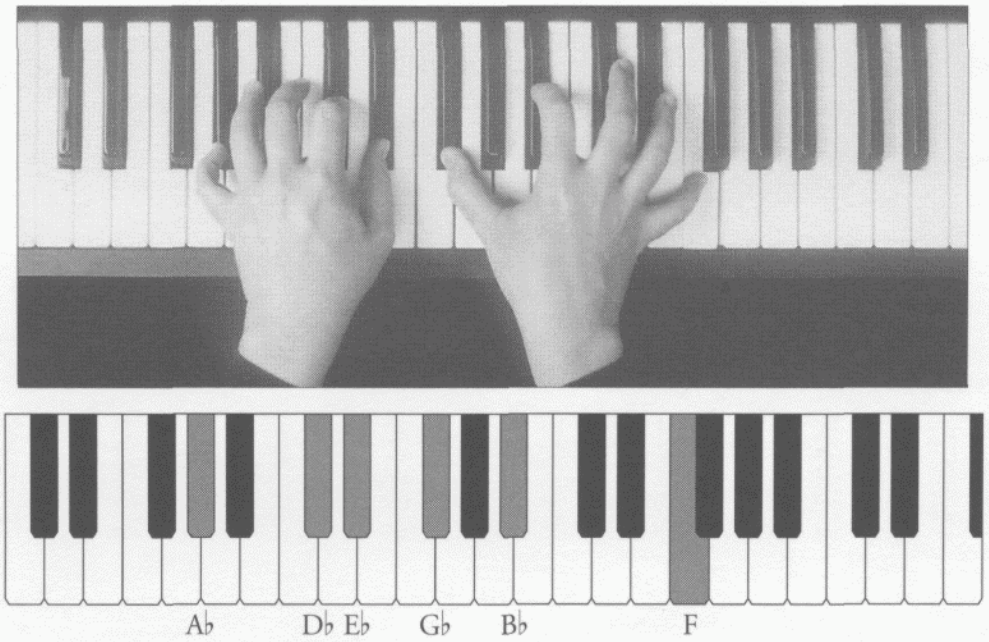
A♭9♯11



A♭13



A♭13sus4



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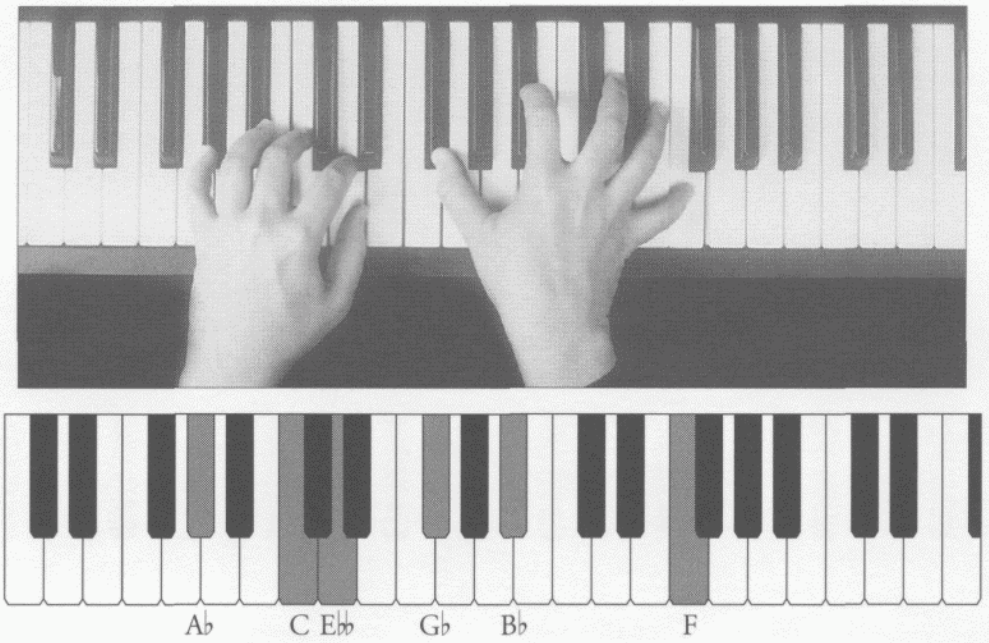

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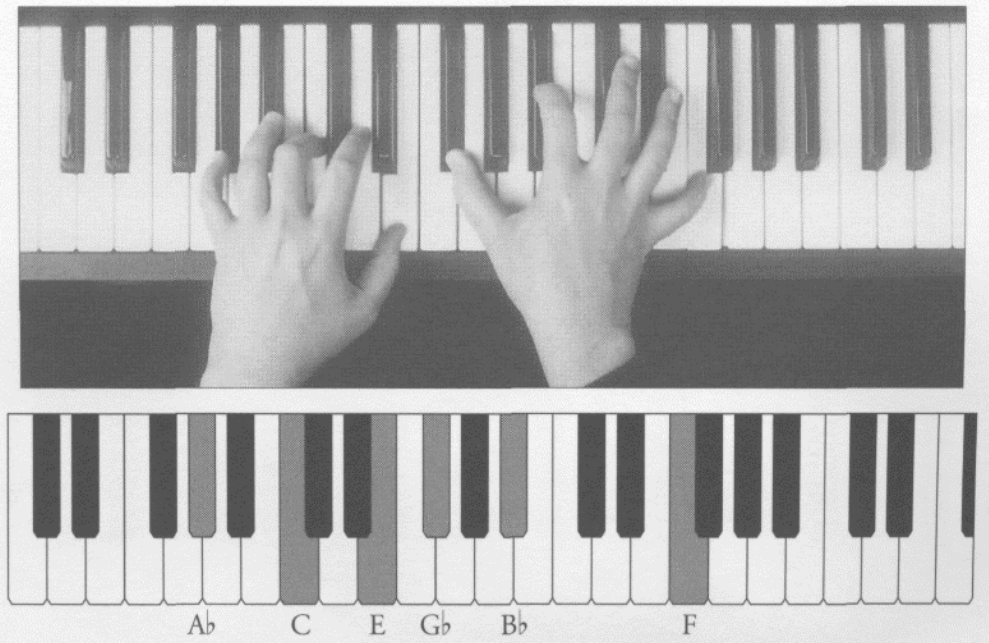
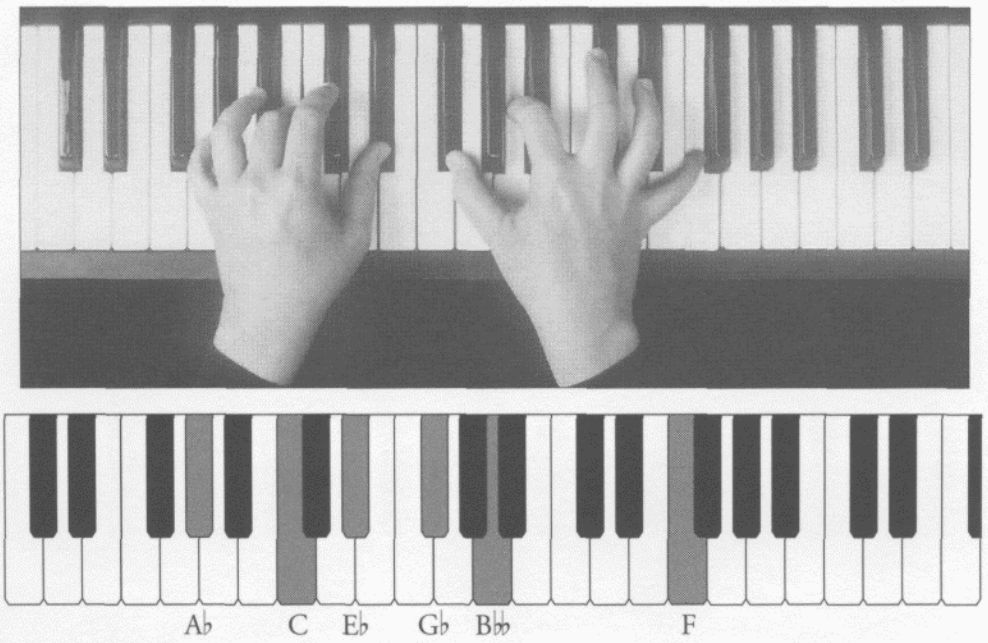
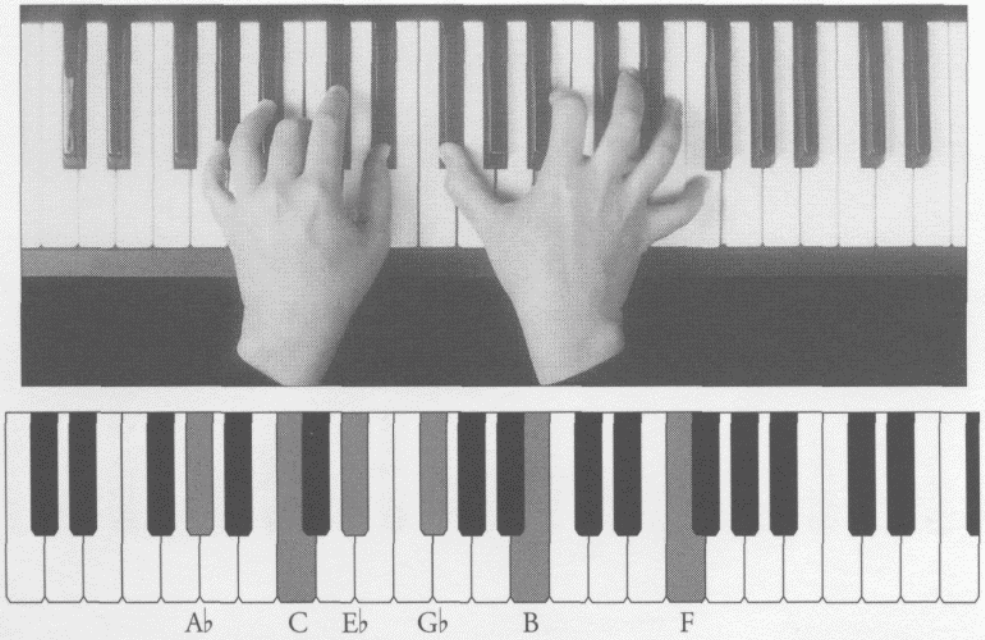


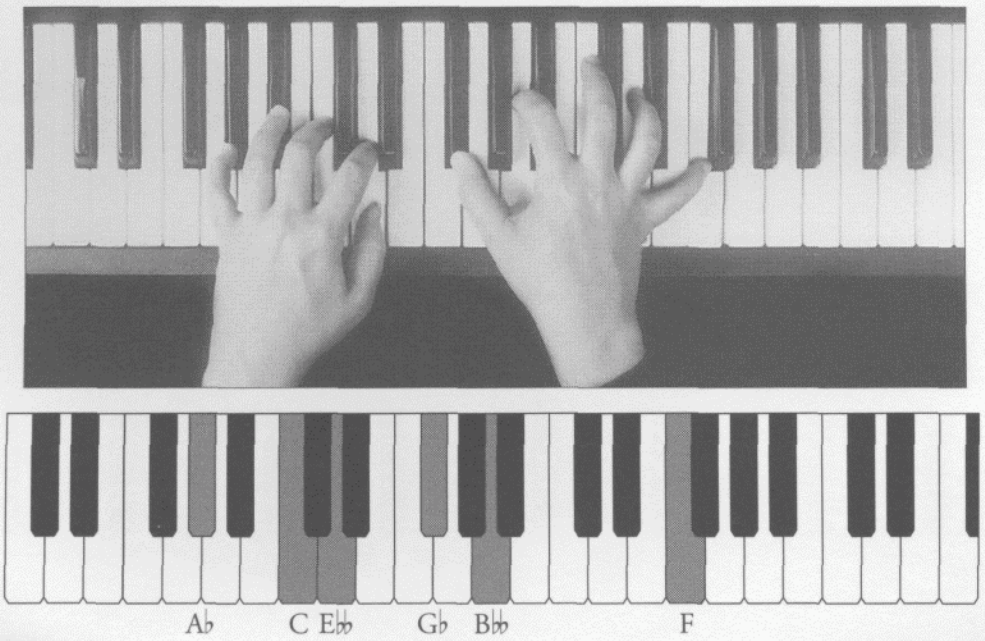
A♭13♭9



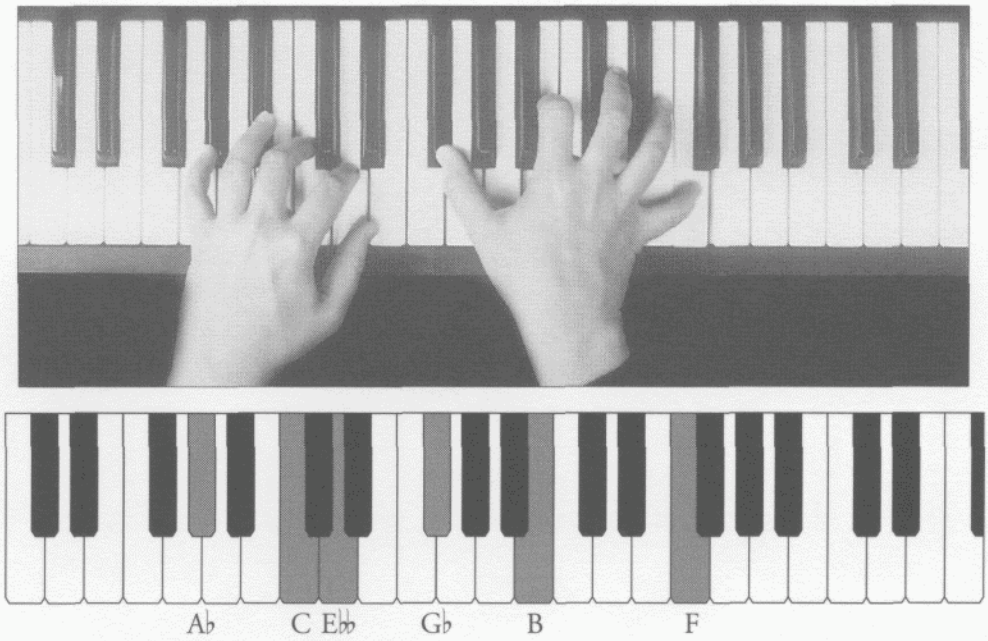
A♭13♯9



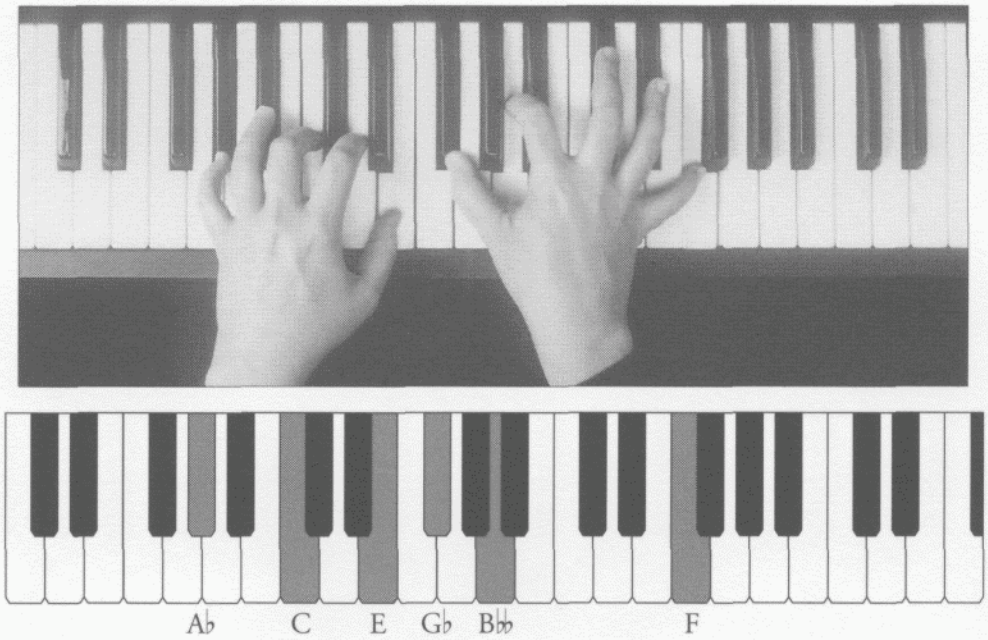
A♭13♭5♭9



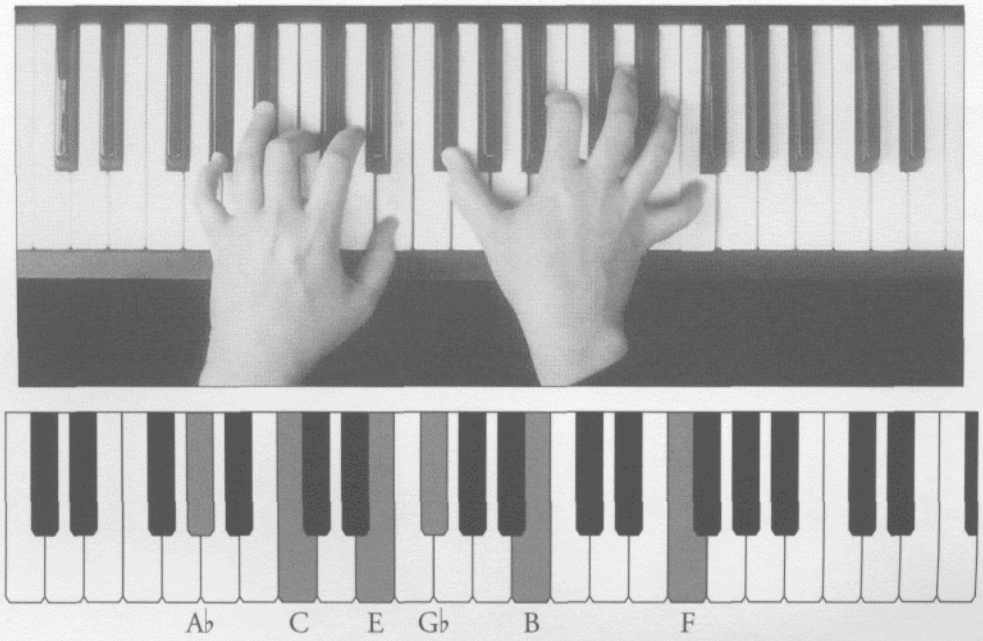
A♭13♭5♯9



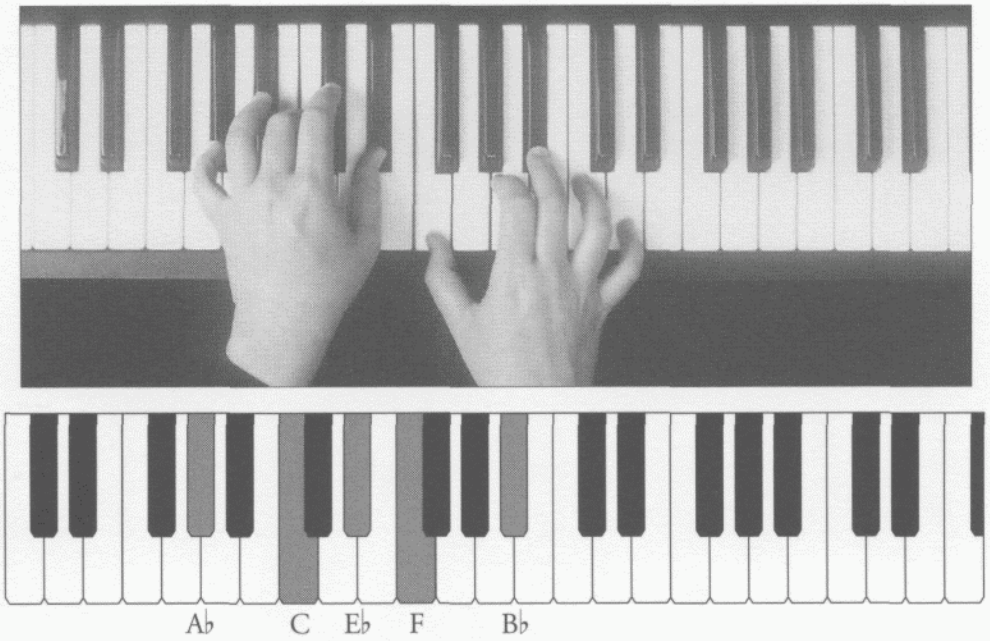
A♭13♯5♭9



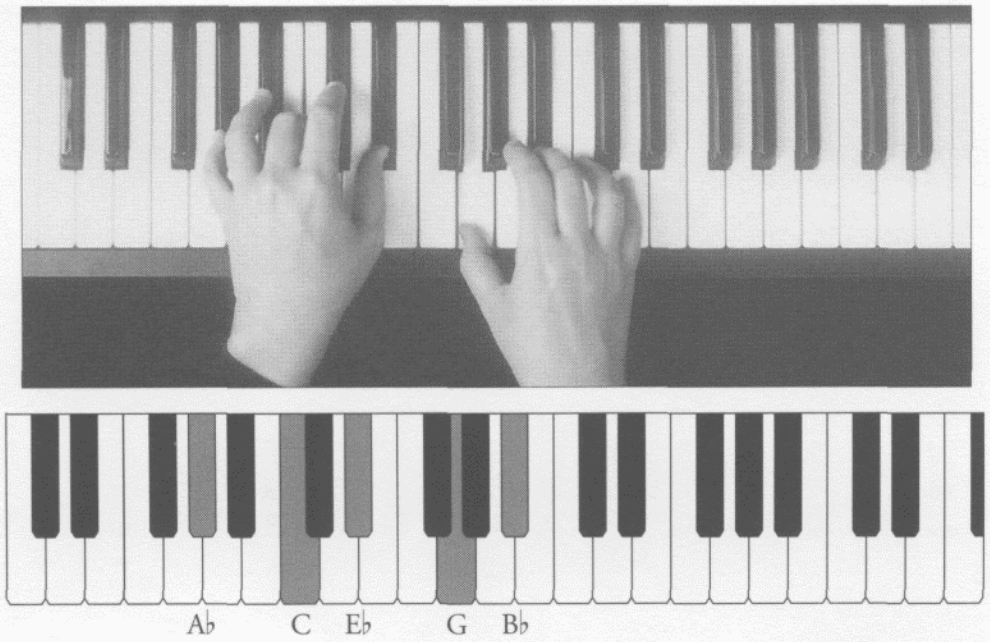
A♭13♯5♯9



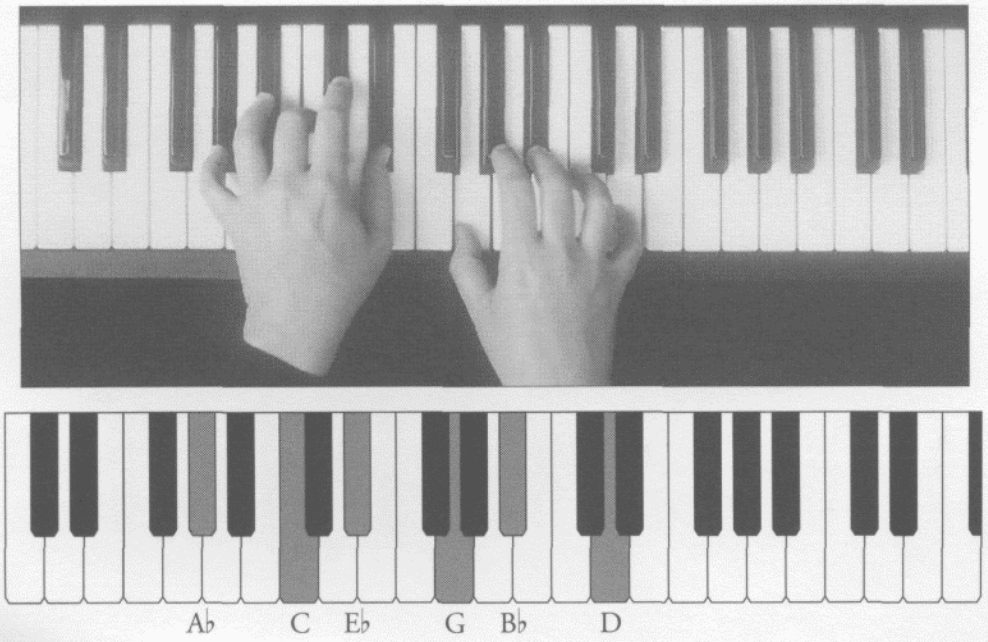
A♭ 6/9



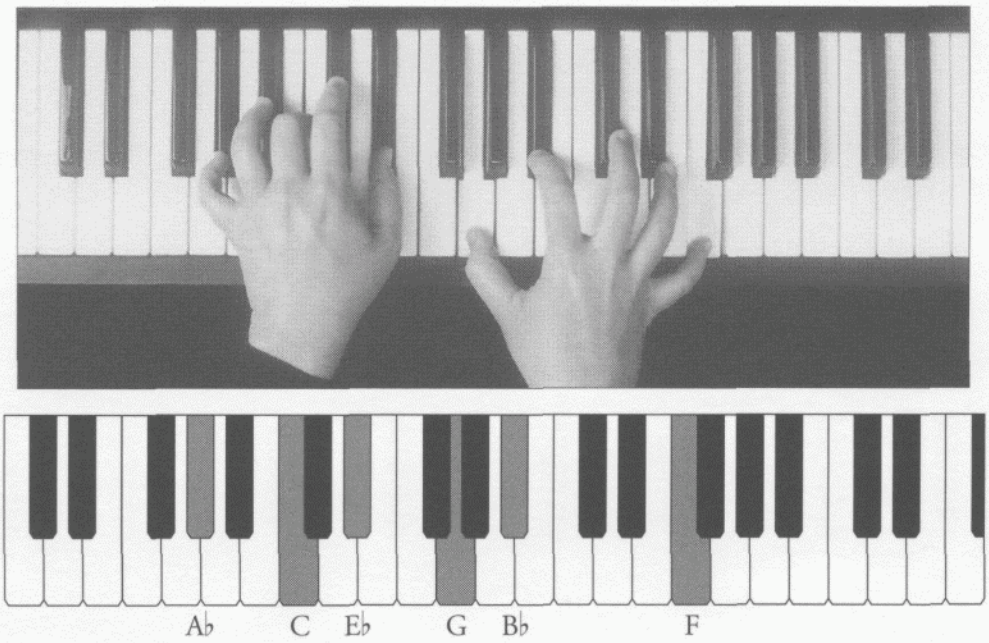
A♭ major9



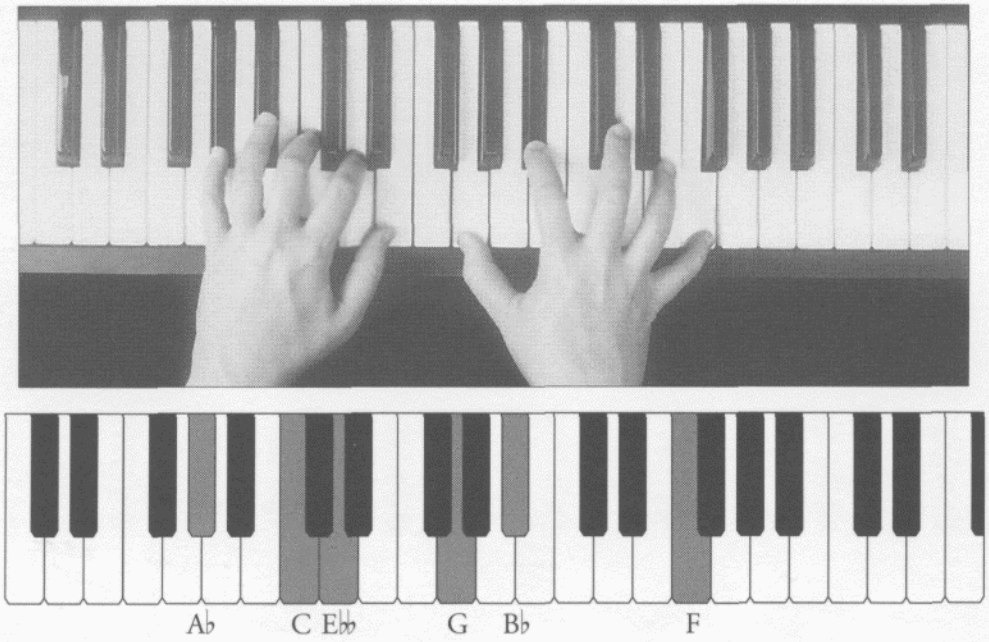
A♭ major9♯11



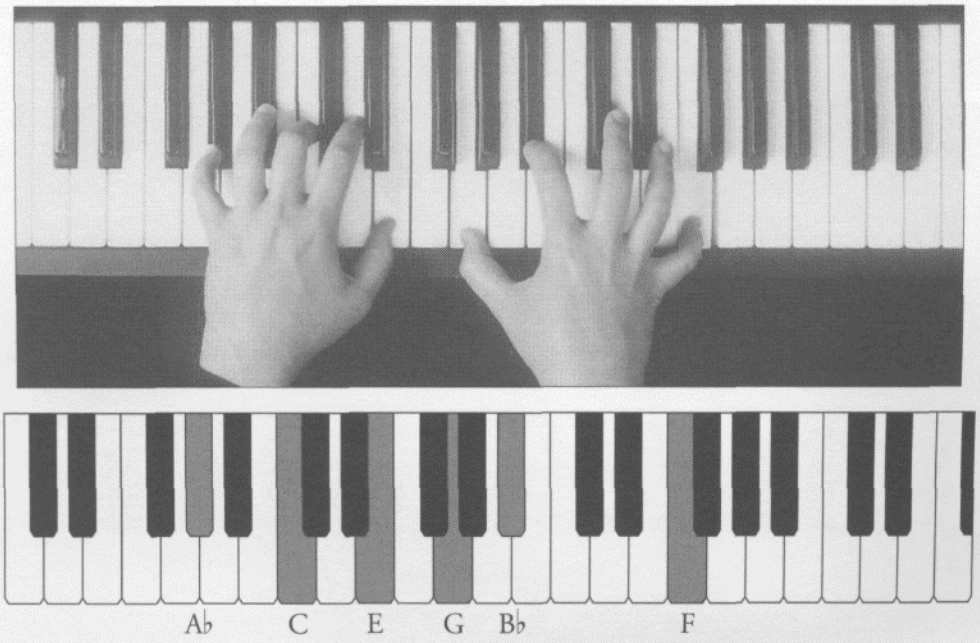
A♭ major13



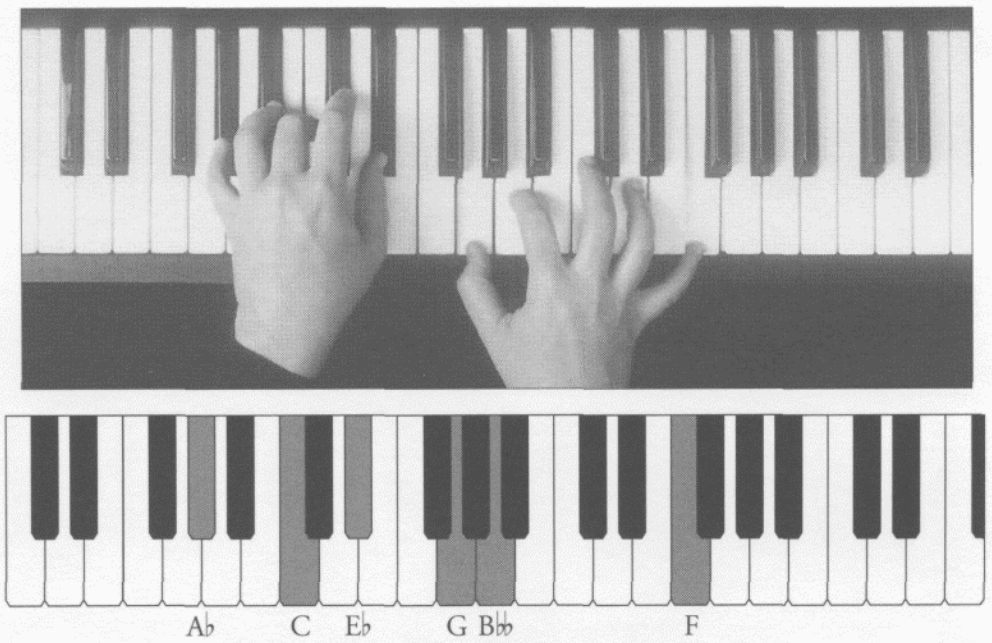
A♭ major13♭5



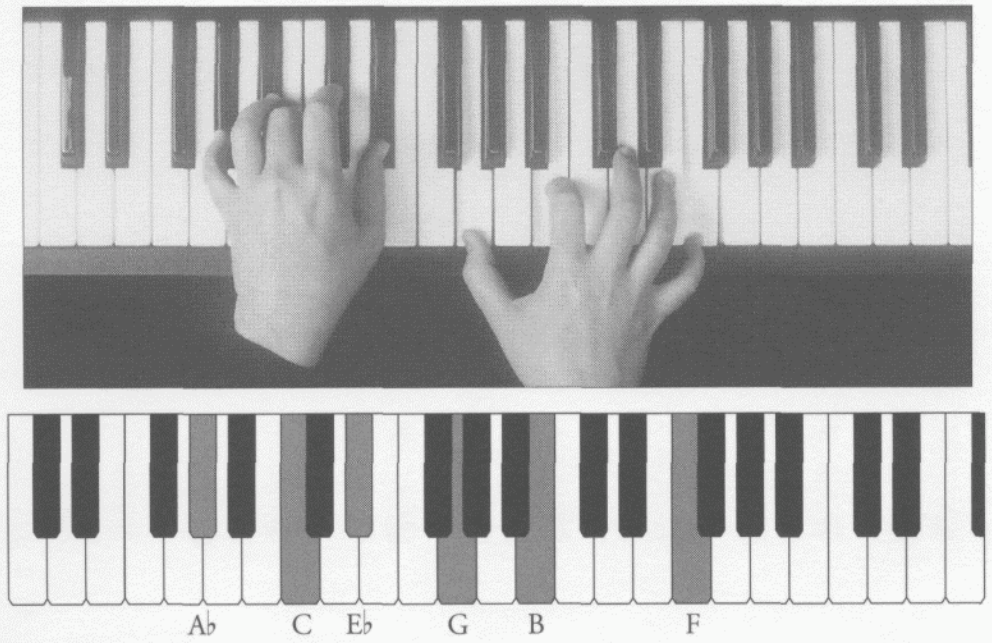
A♭ major13♯5



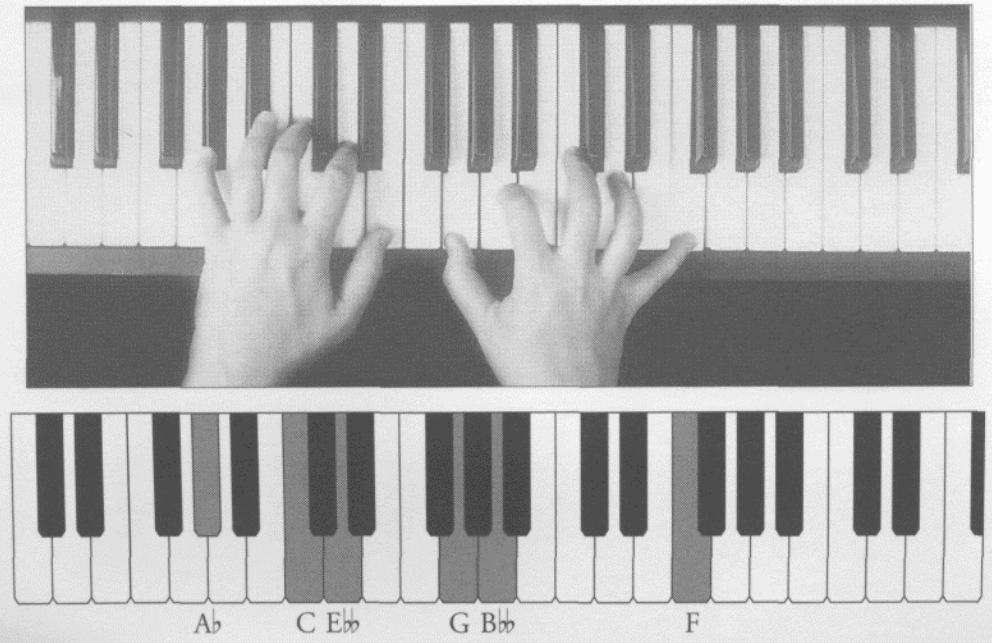
A♭ major13♭9



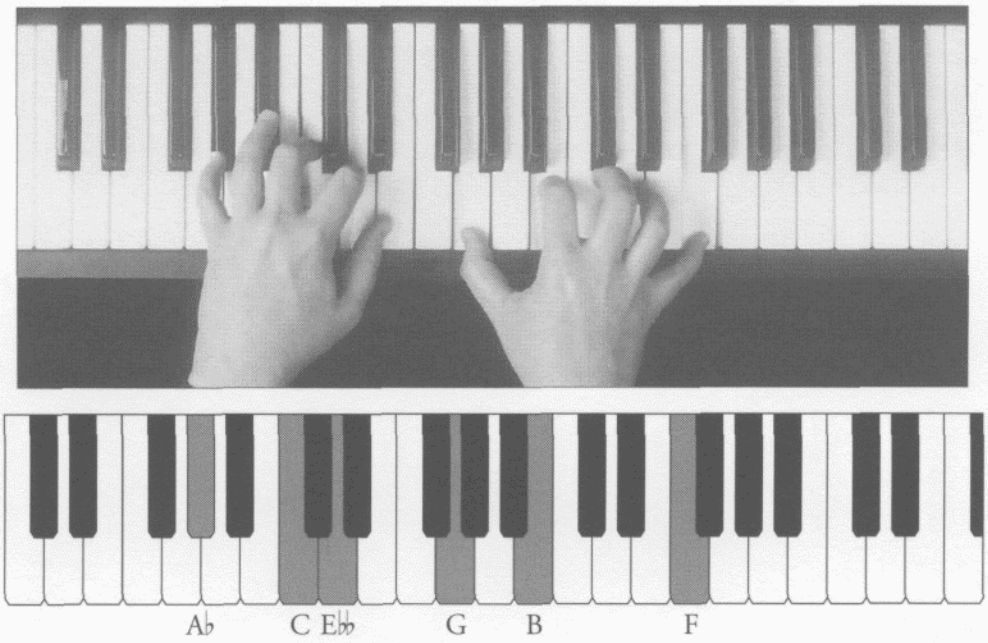
A♭ major13♯9



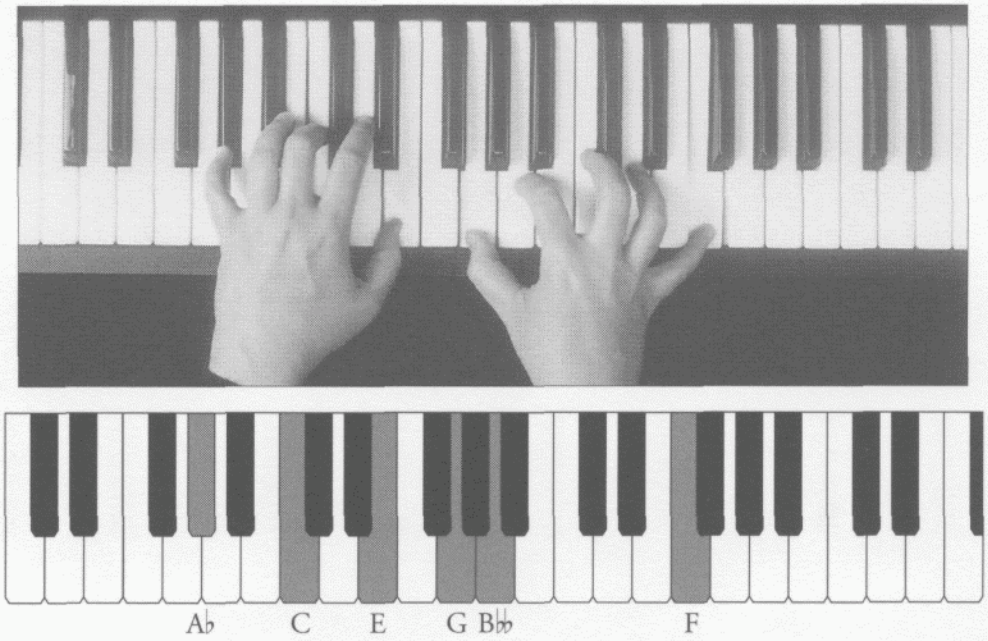
A♭ major13♭5♭9



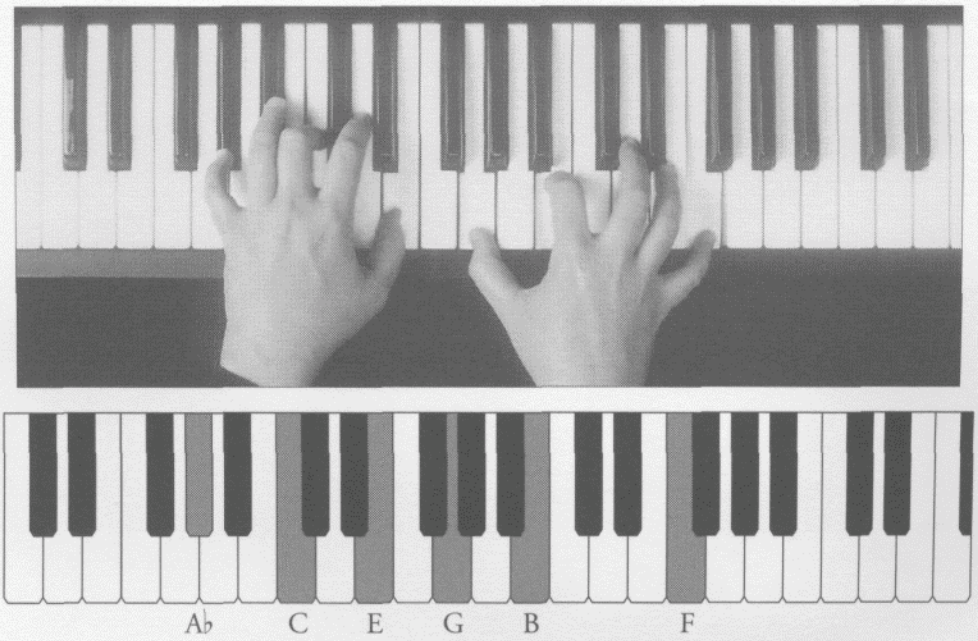
A♭ major13♭5♯9



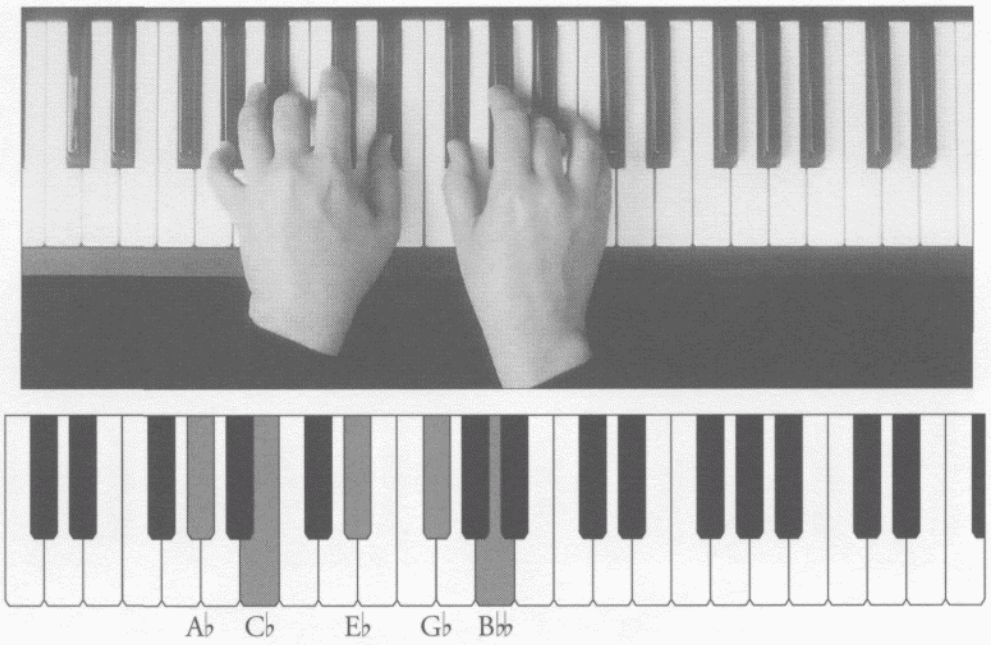
A♭ major13♯5♭9



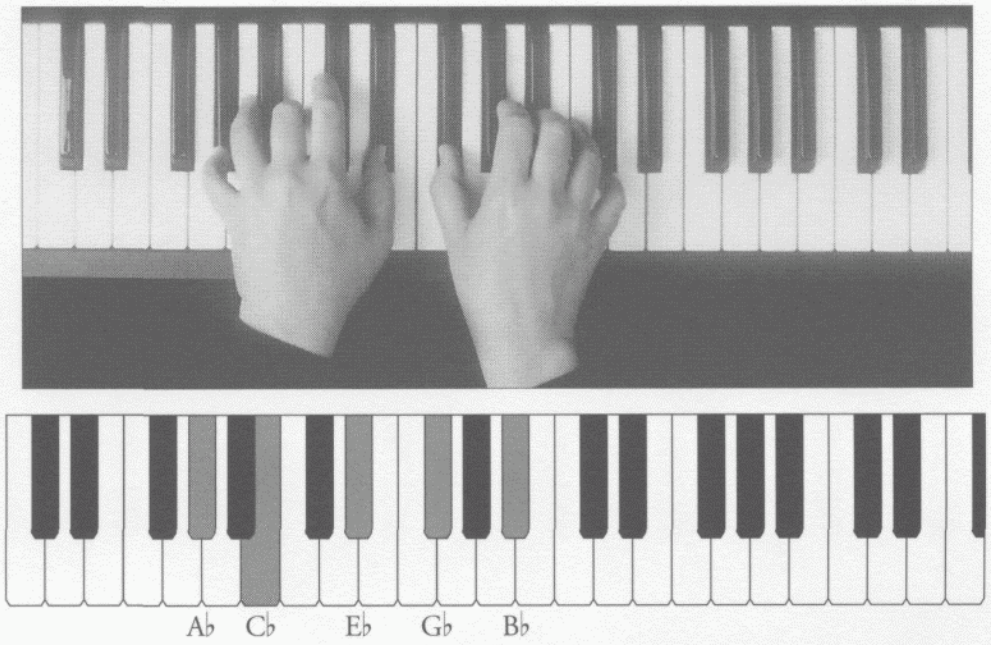
A♭ major13♯5♯9



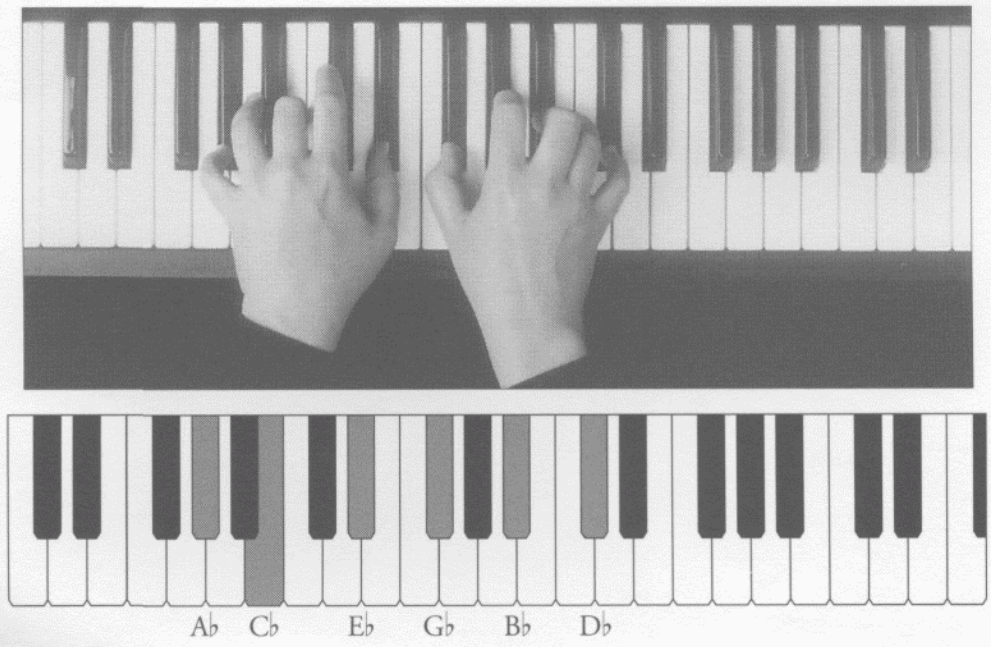
A♭ minor7♭9



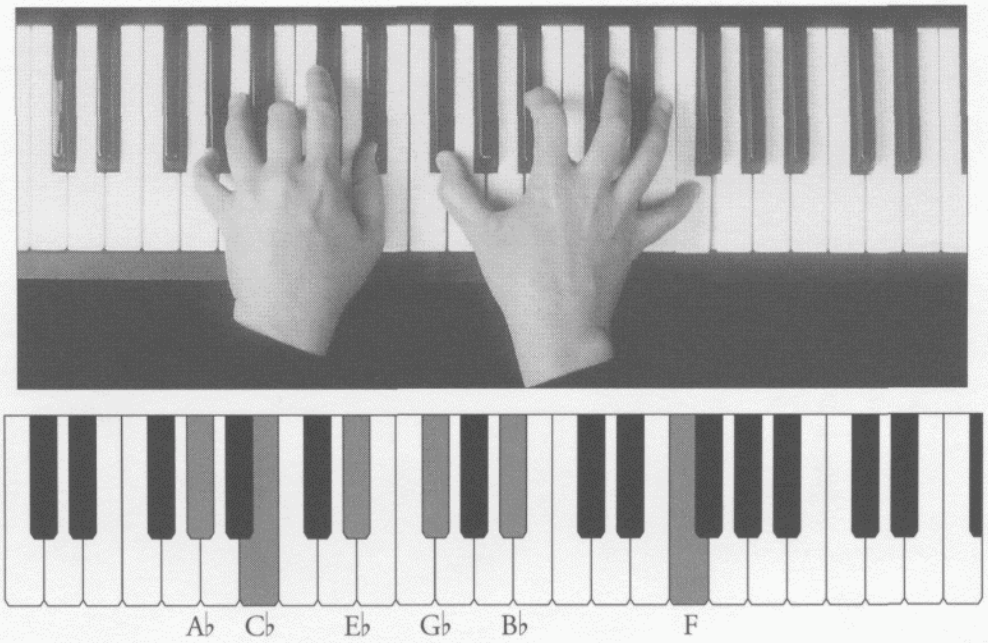
A♭ minor9



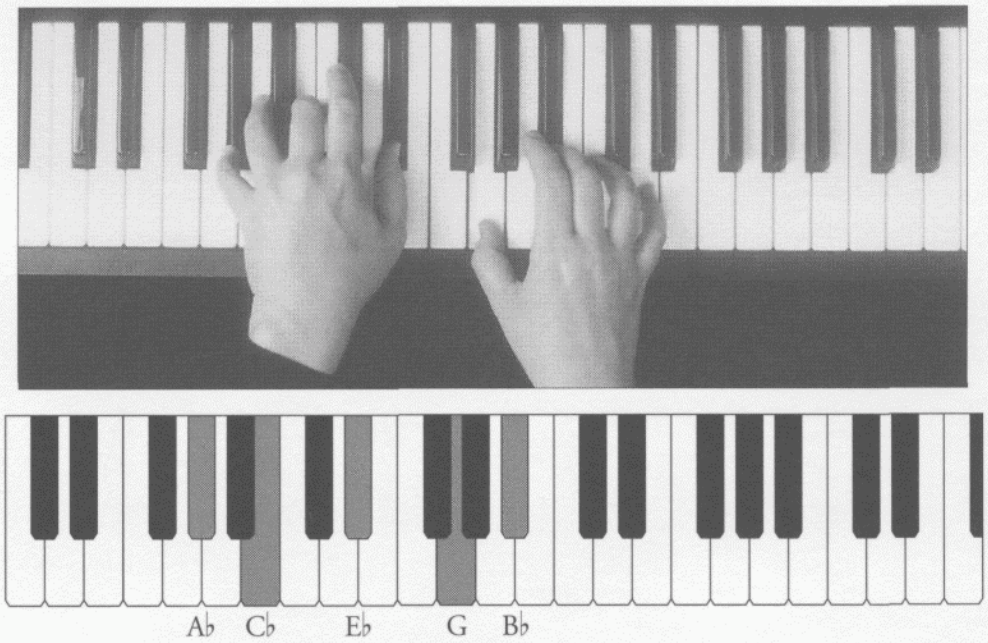
A♭ minor11



A♭ minor13

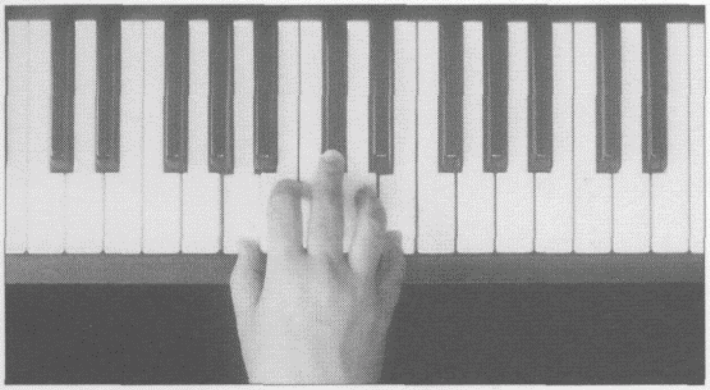


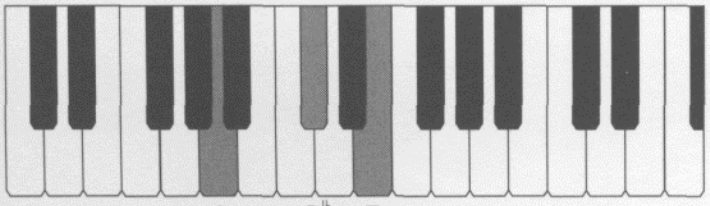
A♭ minor9 (major7)



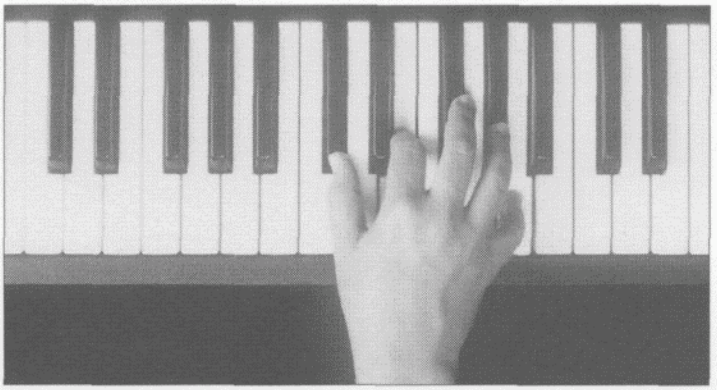
A chords

A major

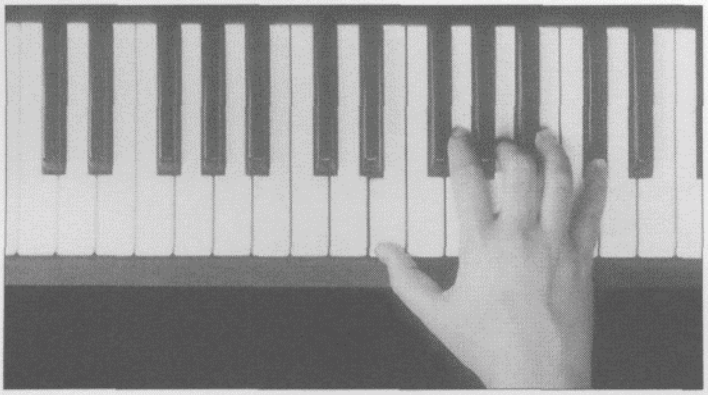


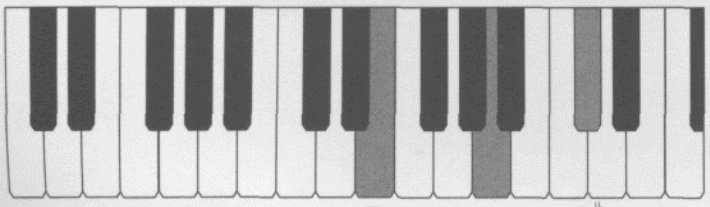


A/C♯ *first inversion*

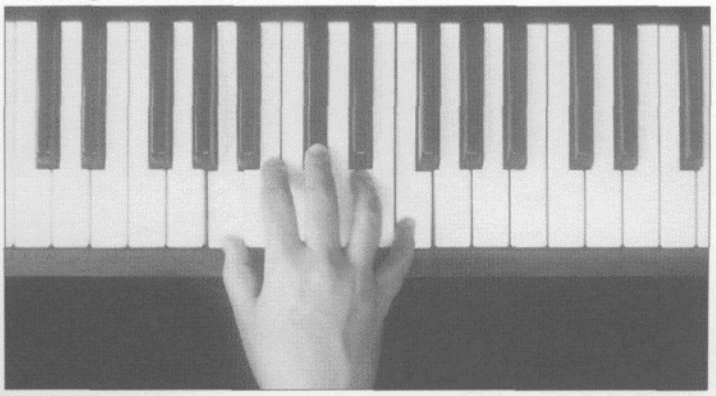


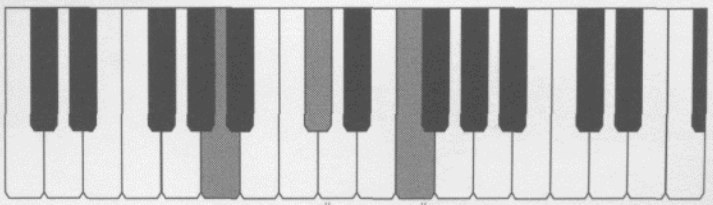
A/E *second inversion*



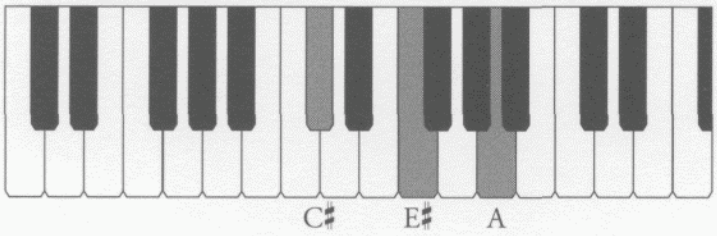


A augmented

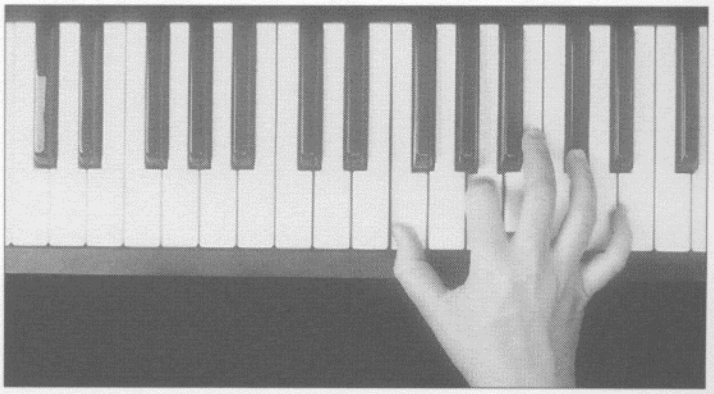


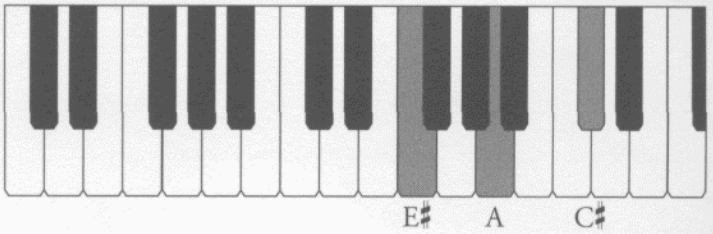


A augmented *first inversion*

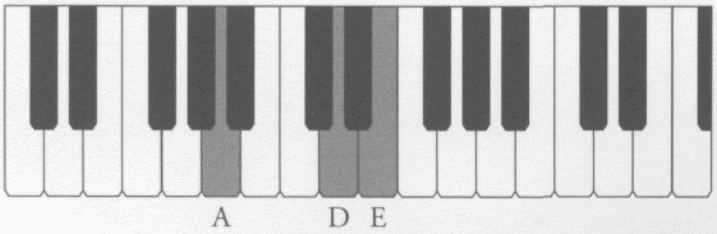


A augmented *second inversion*

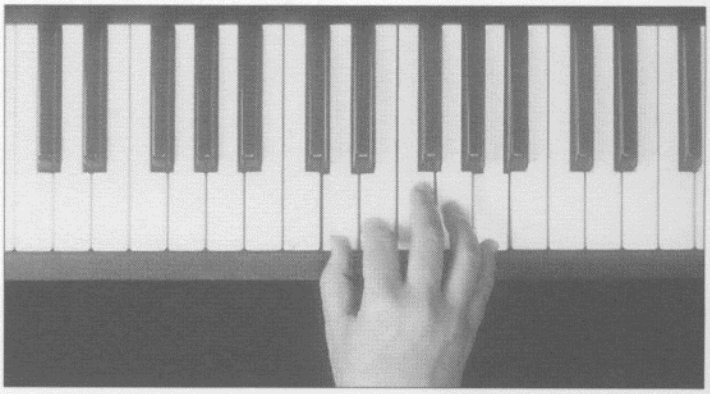


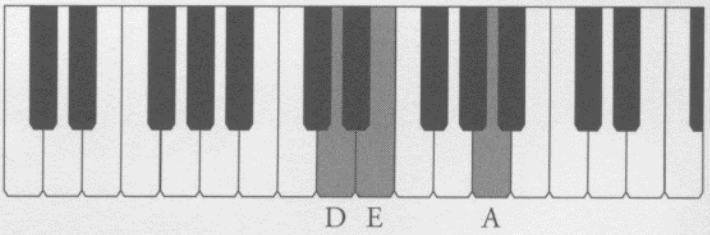


Asus4

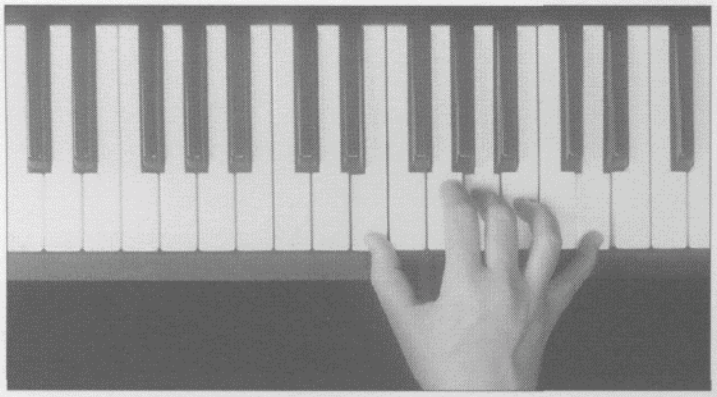


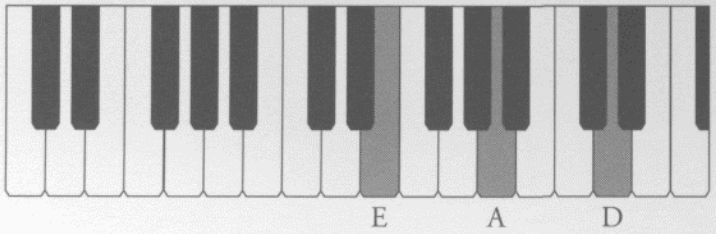
Asus4 *first inversion*



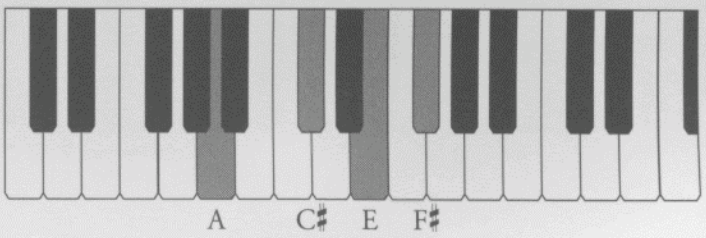


Asus4 *second inversion*

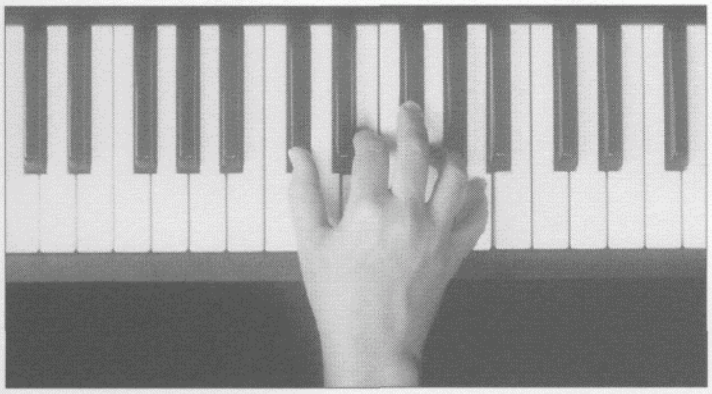




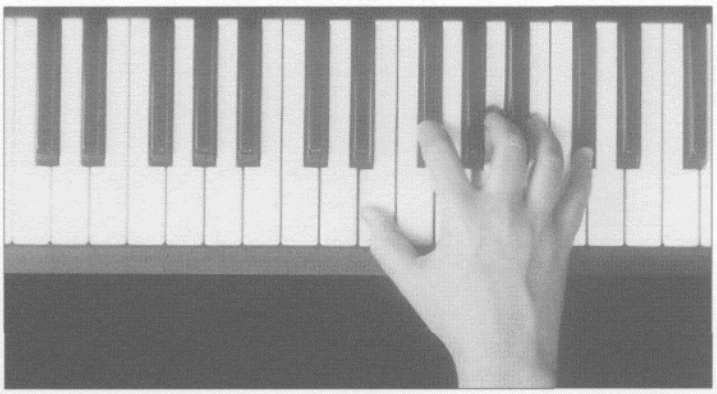
A6



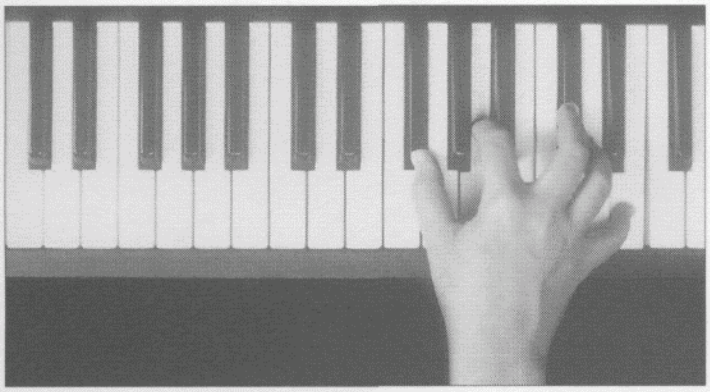
A6 *first inversion*

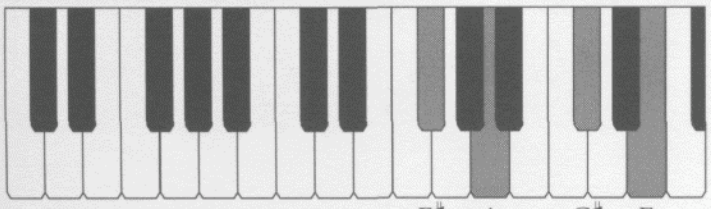


A6 *second inversion*

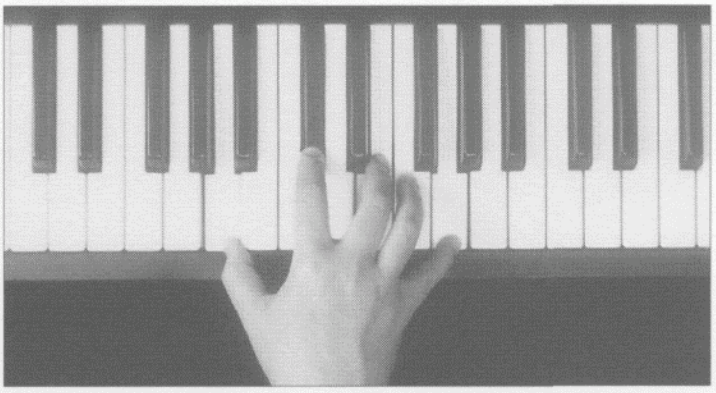


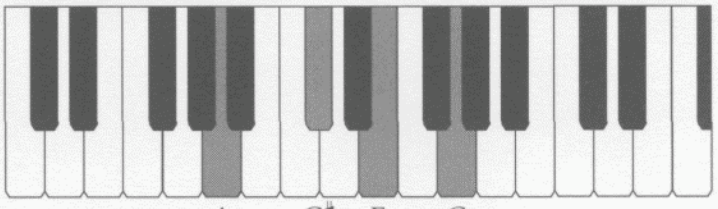
A6 *third inversion*



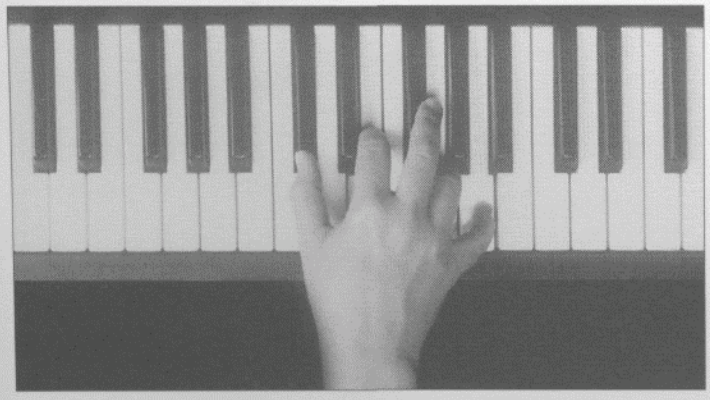


A7

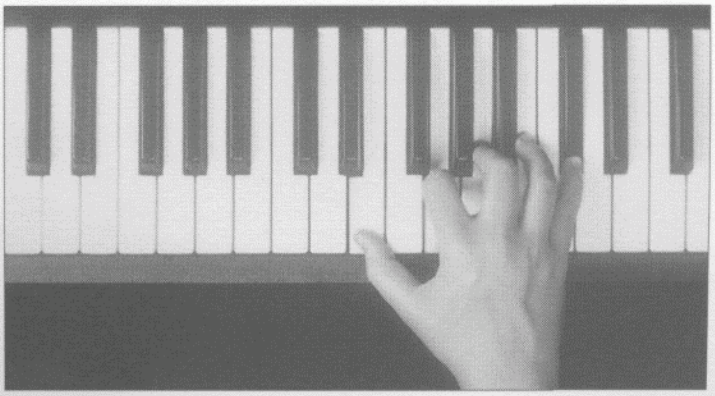


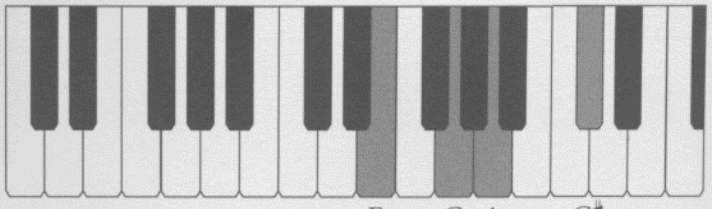


A7 *first inversion*

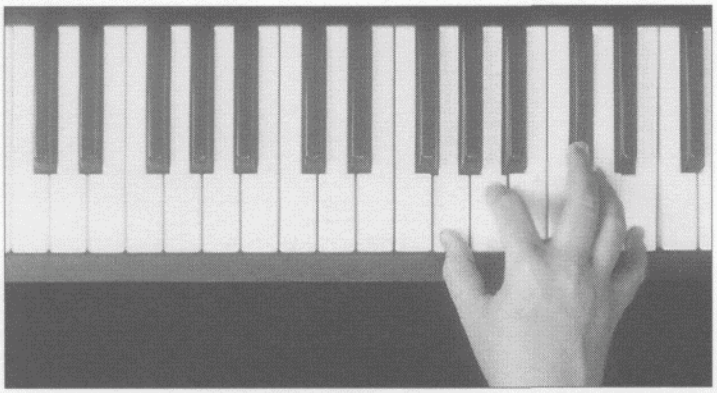


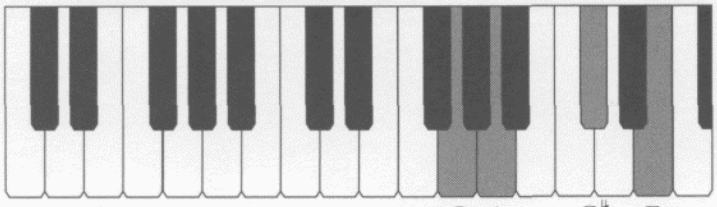
A7 *second inversion*



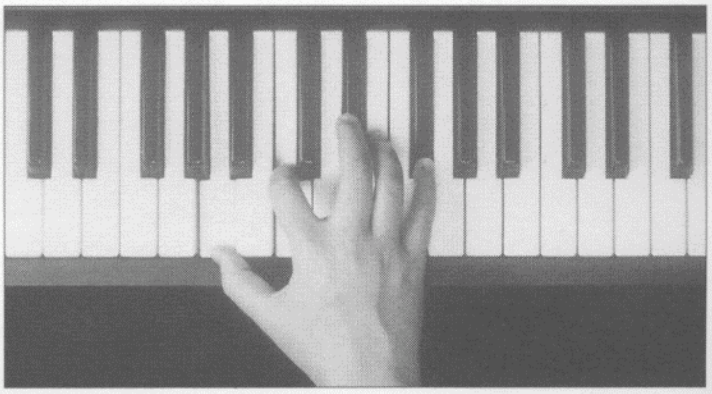


A7 *third inversion*

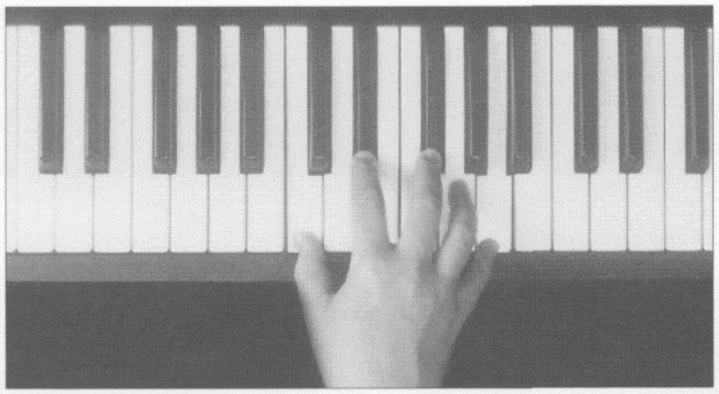


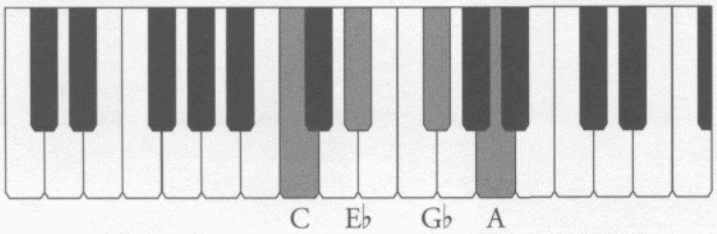


A°7

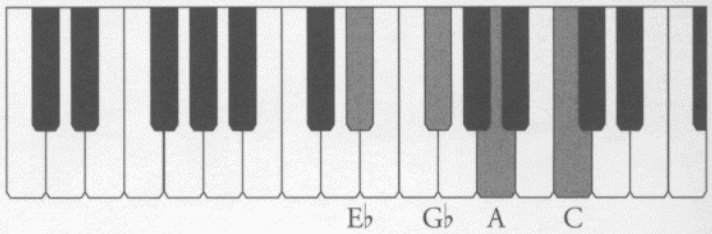


A°7 *first inversion*

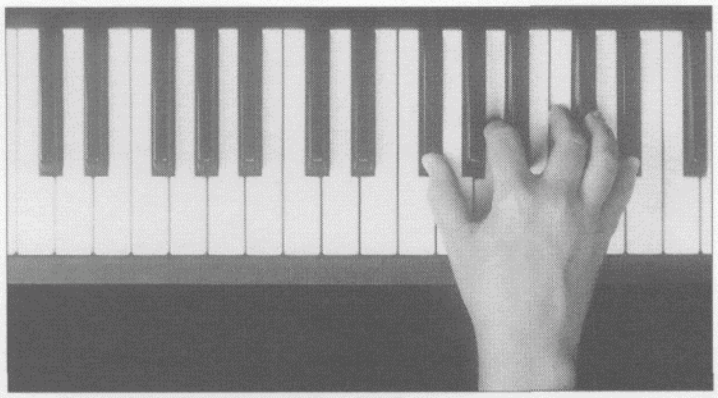


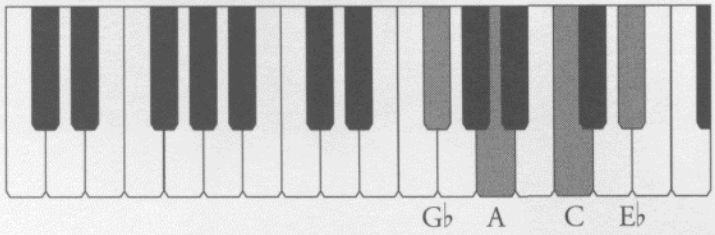


A°7 *second inversion*

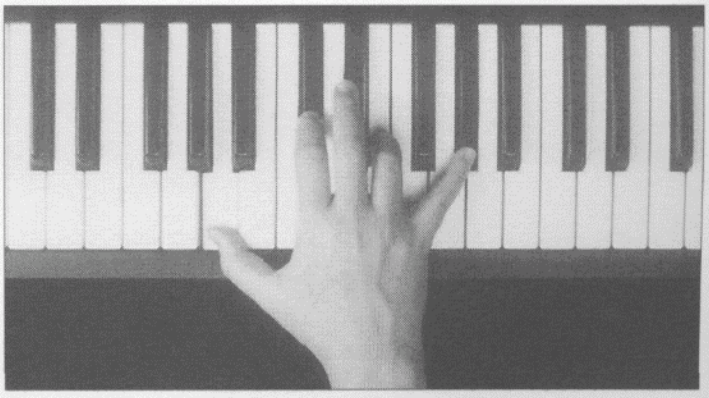


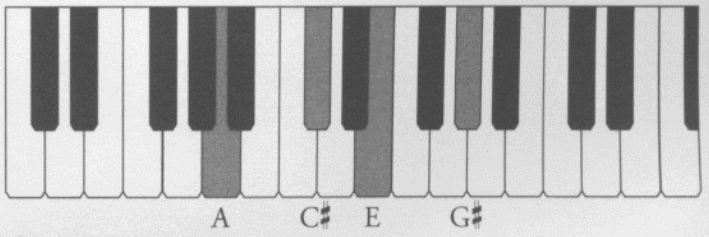
A°7 *third inversion*



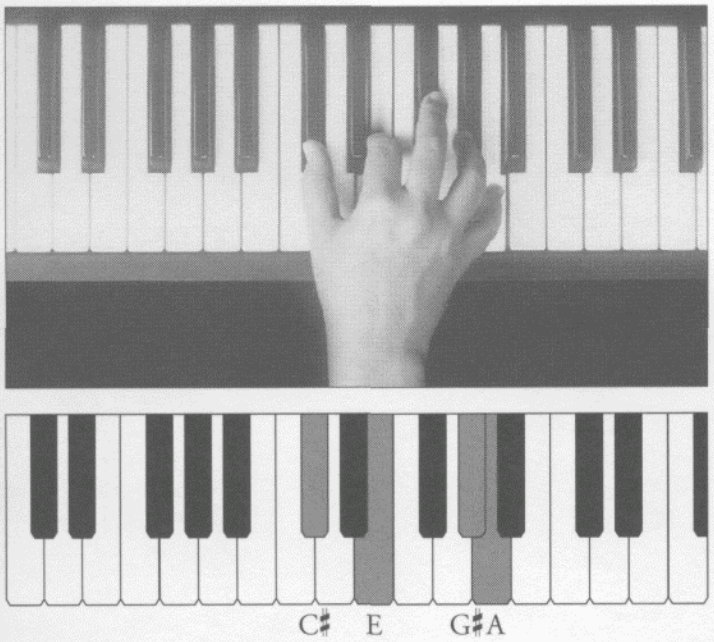


A major7

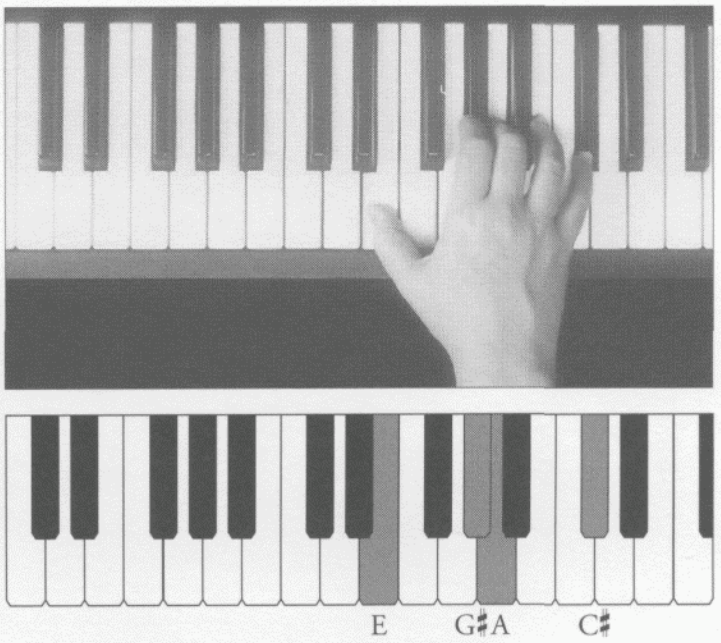




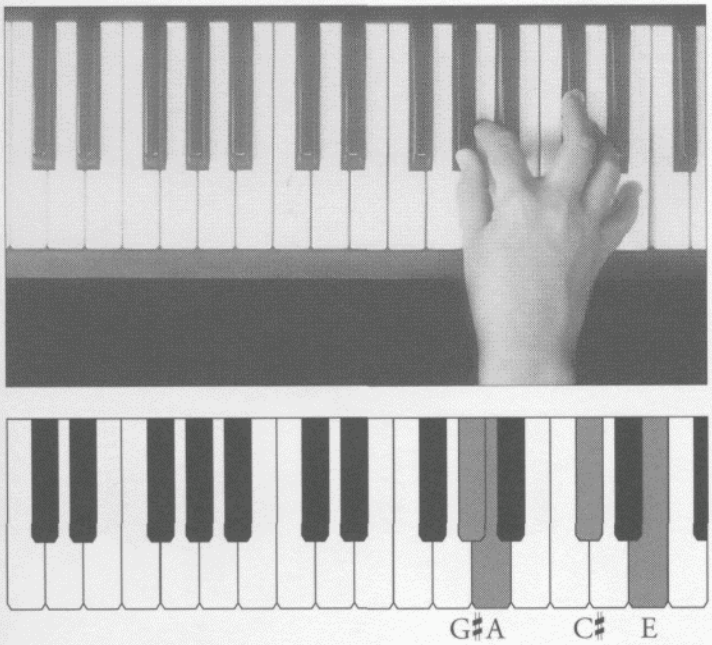
A major7 *first inversion*



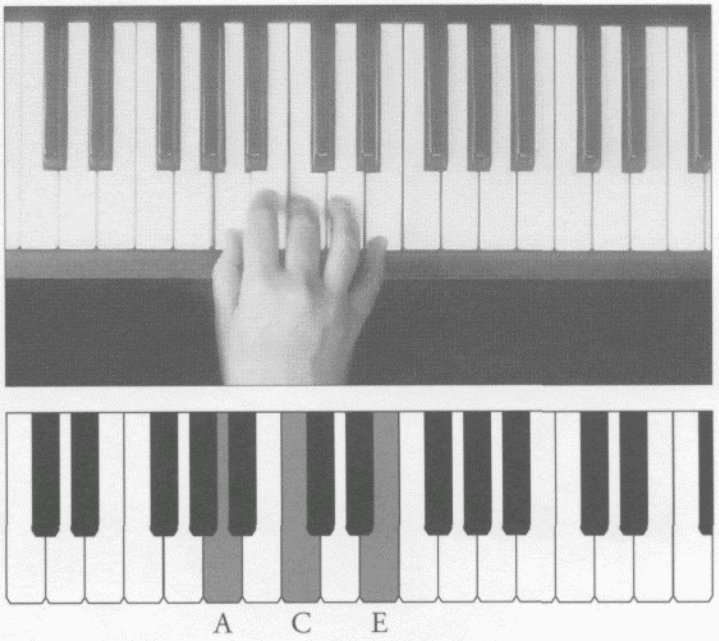
A major7 *second inversion*



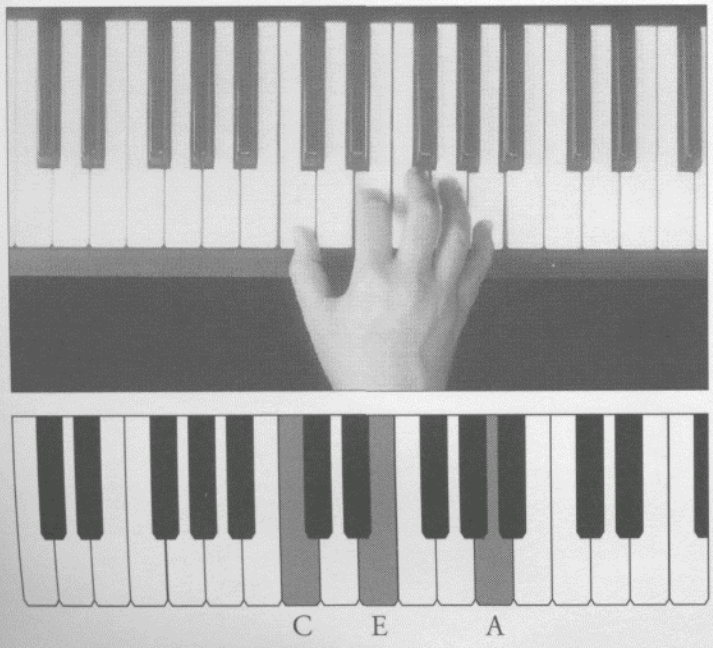
A major7 *third inversion*



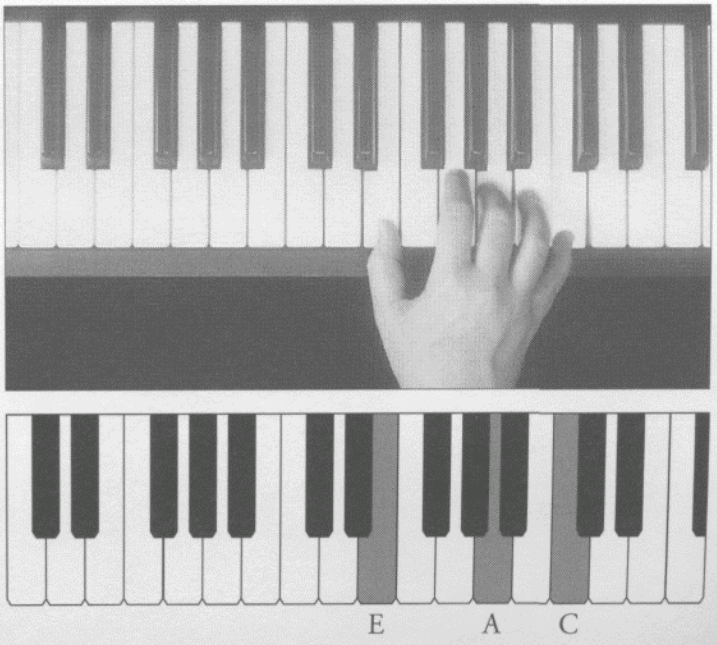
A minor



A minor *first inversion*

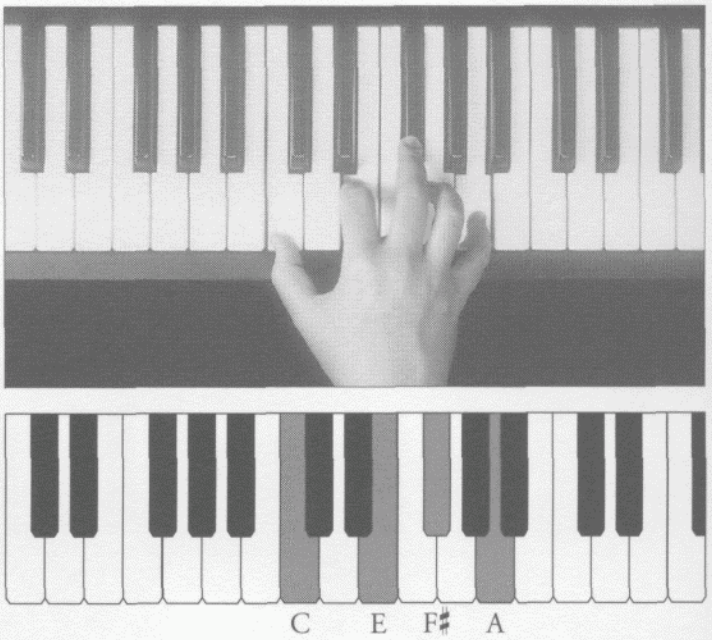


A minor *second inversion*

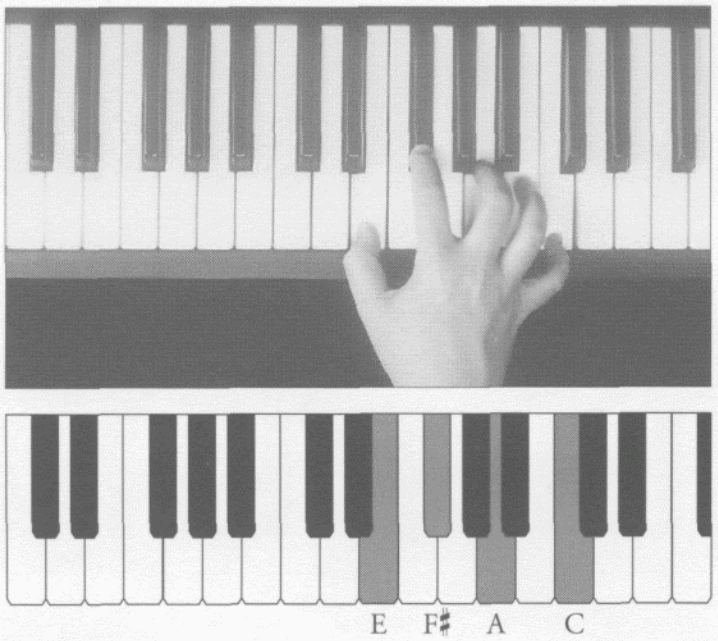


A minor6

A minor6 *first inversion*

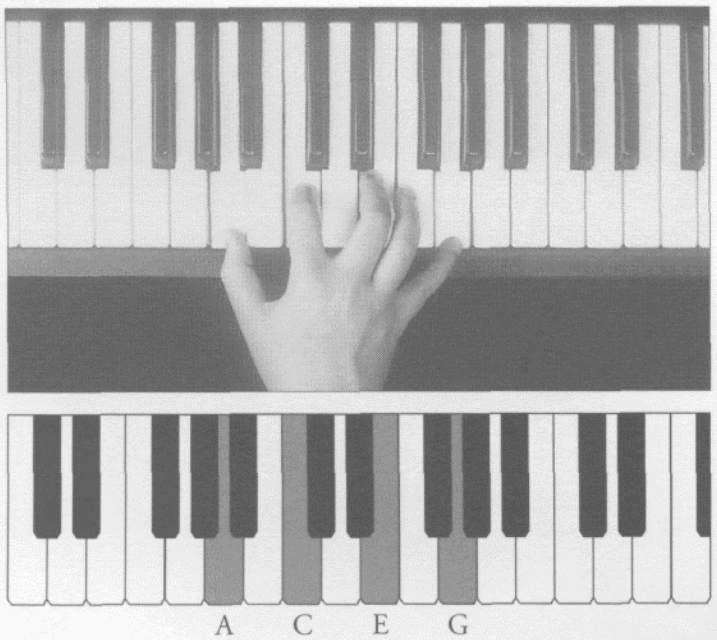


A minor6 *second inversion*



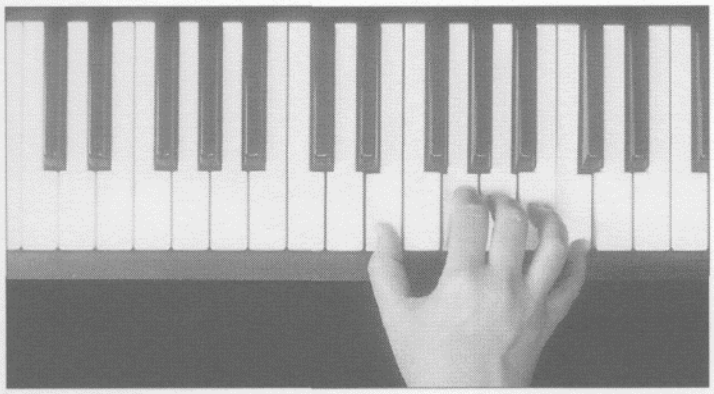
A minor6 *third inversion*

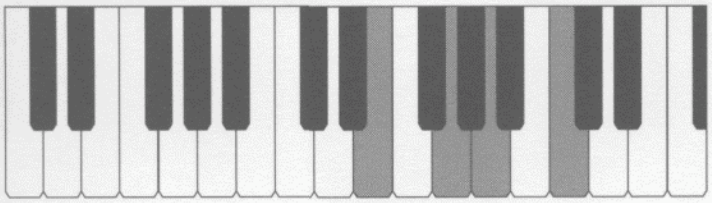
A minor7



A minor7 *first inversion*

A minor7 *second inversion*





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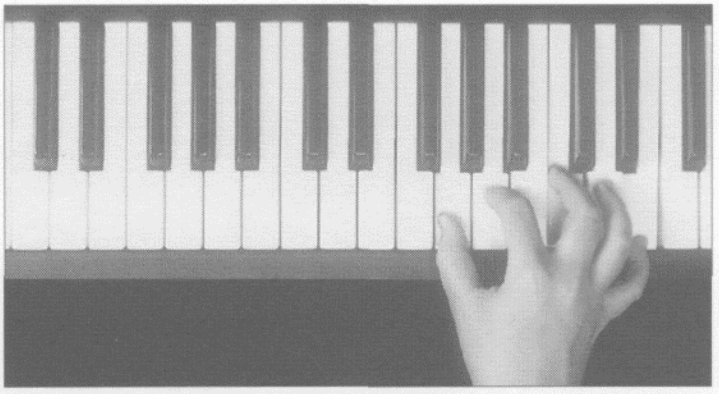
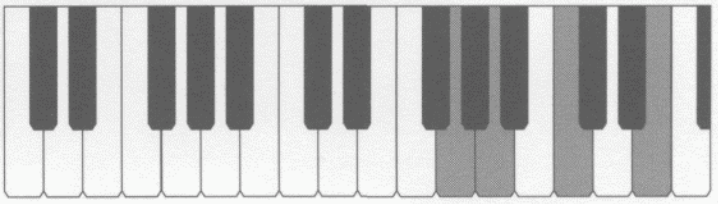
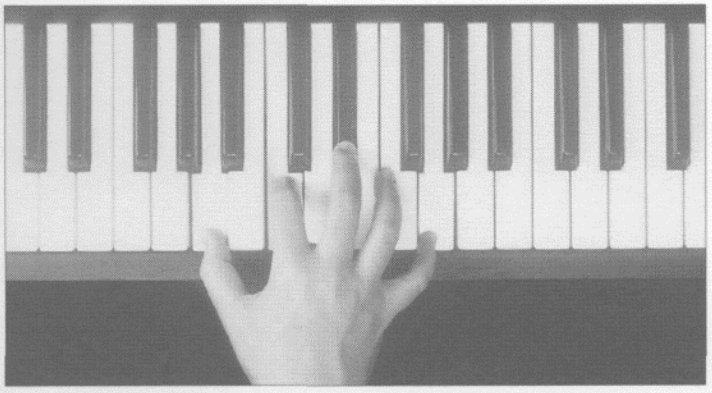
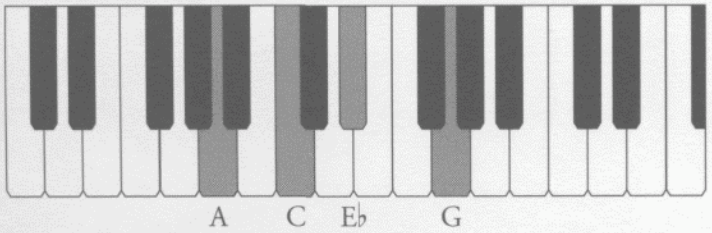


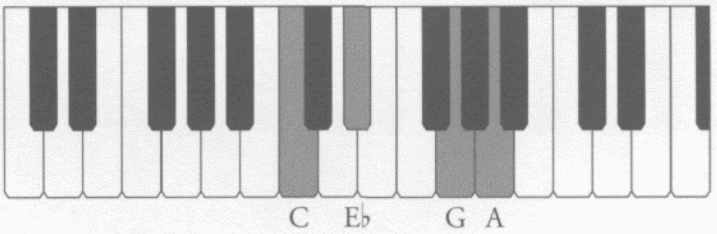


A minor7♭5





A minor7♭5 *first inversion*



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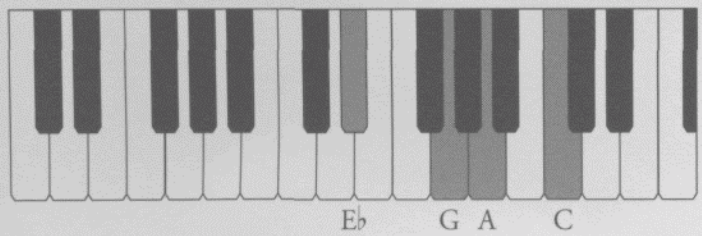
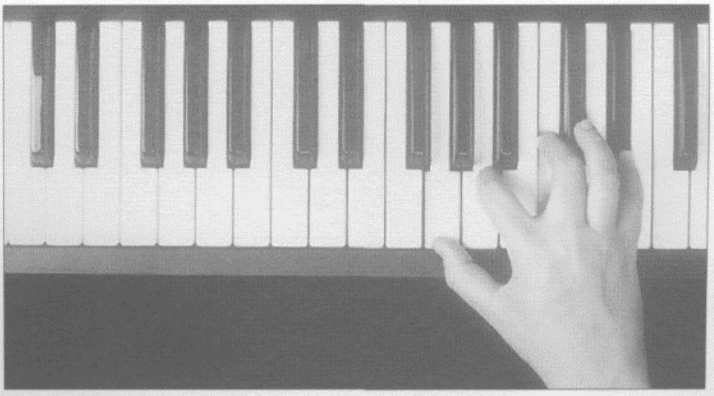
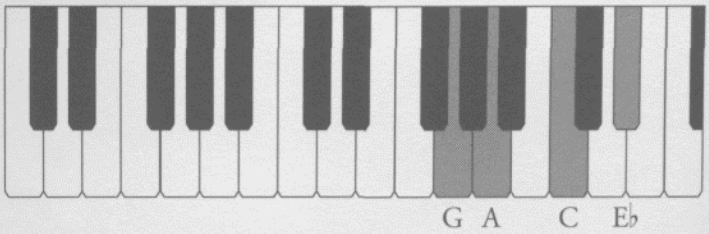
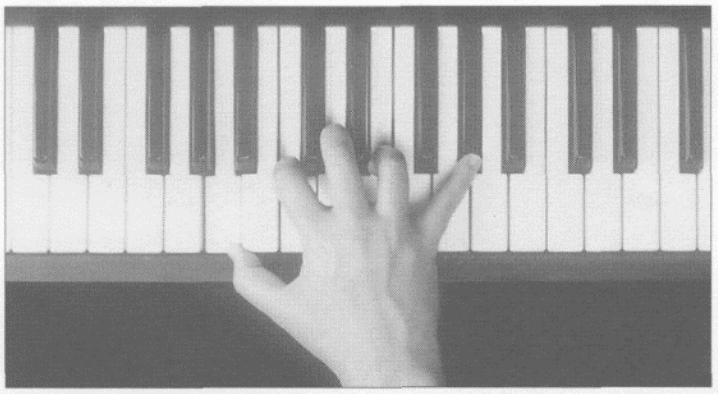


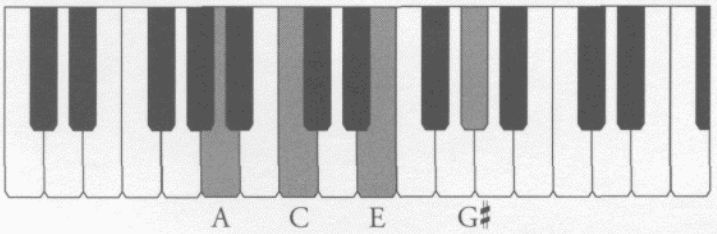
A minor7♭5 *third inversion*



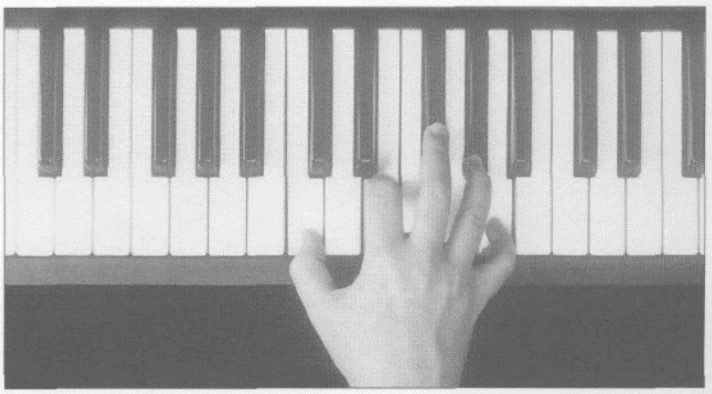


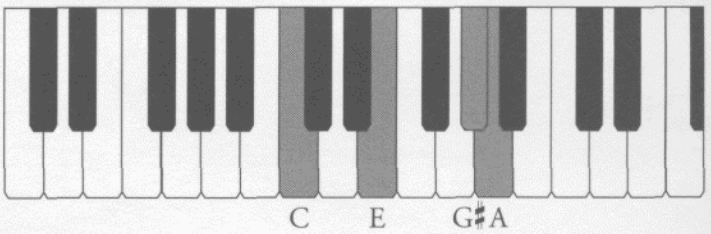
A minor (major7)



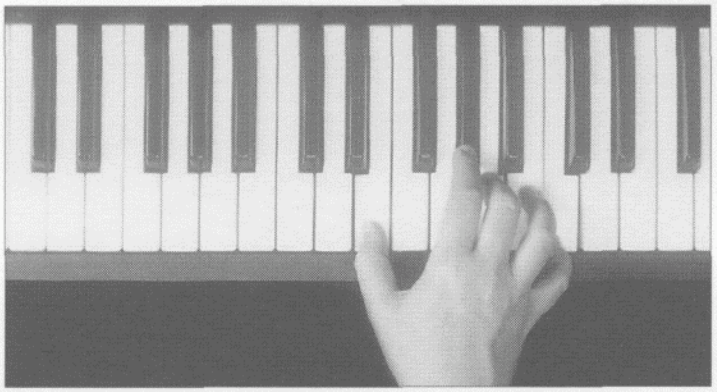


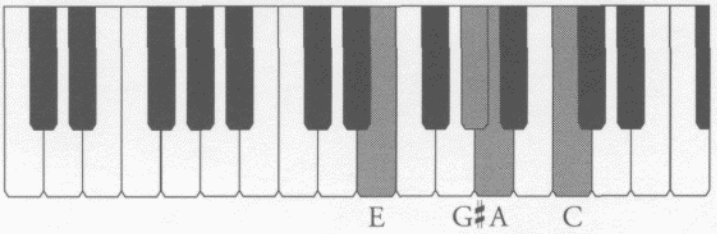
A minor (major7) *first inversion*



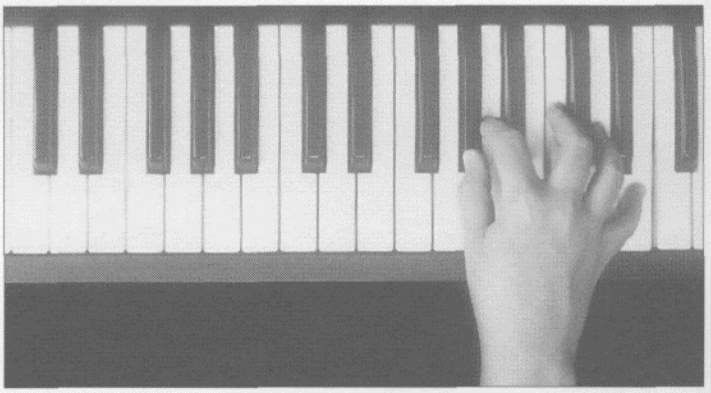


A minor (major7) *second inversion*



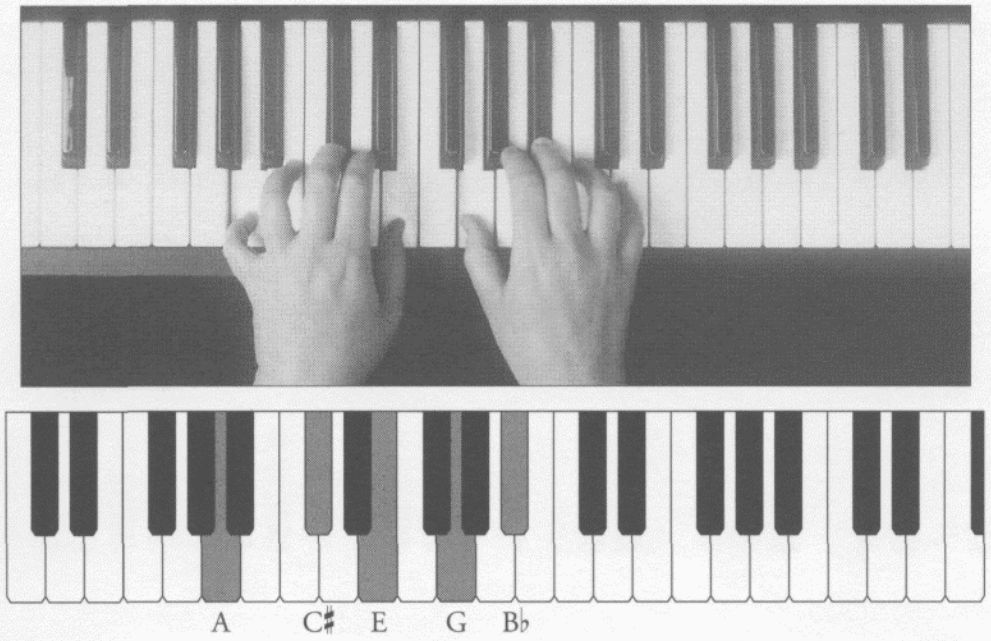


A minor (major7) *third inversion*

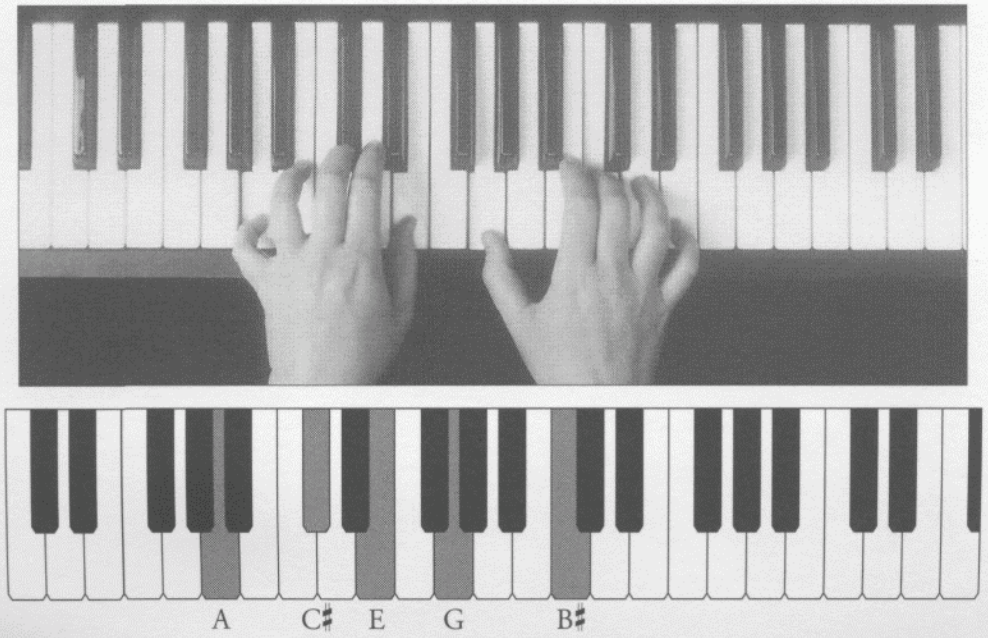


A chords
using both hands

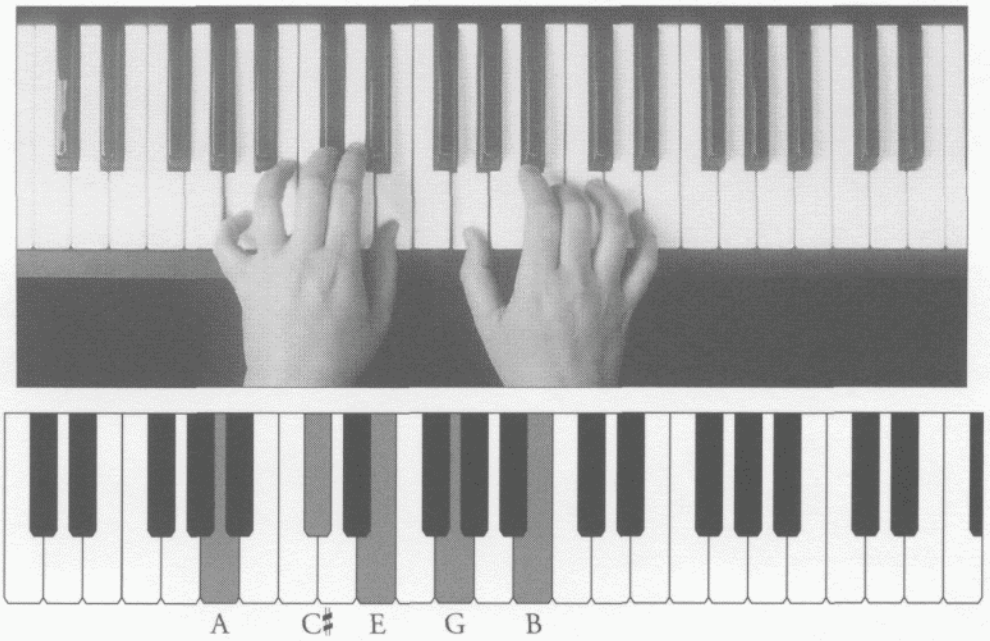
A7♭9



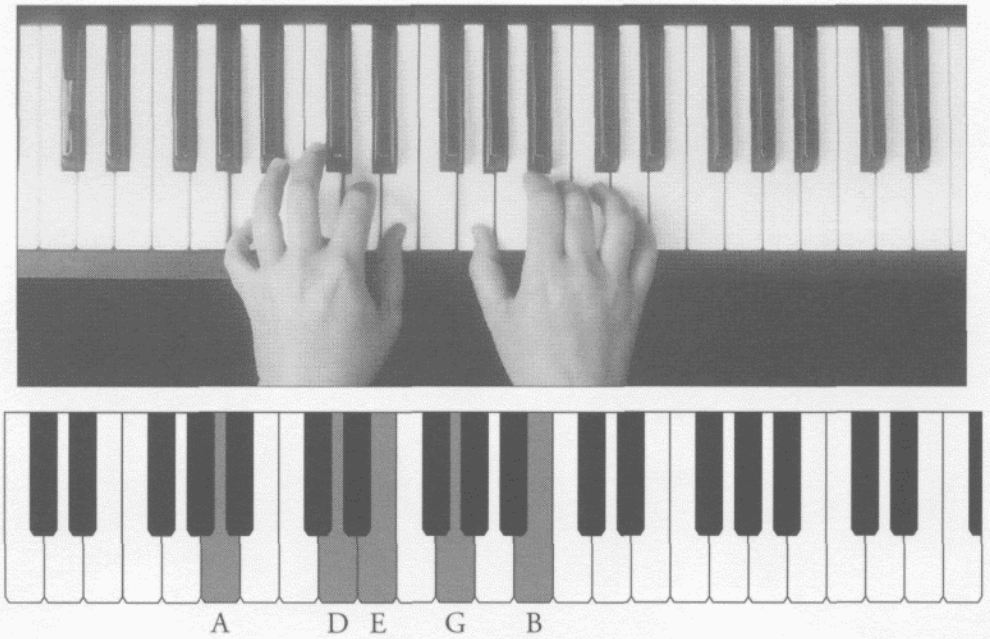
A7♯9



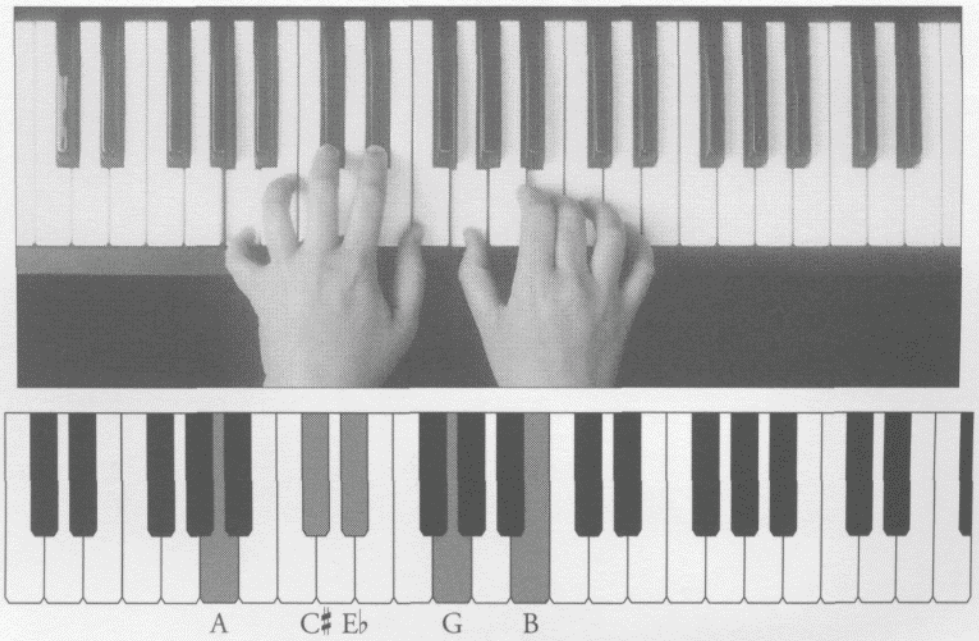
A9



A9sus4



A9♭5



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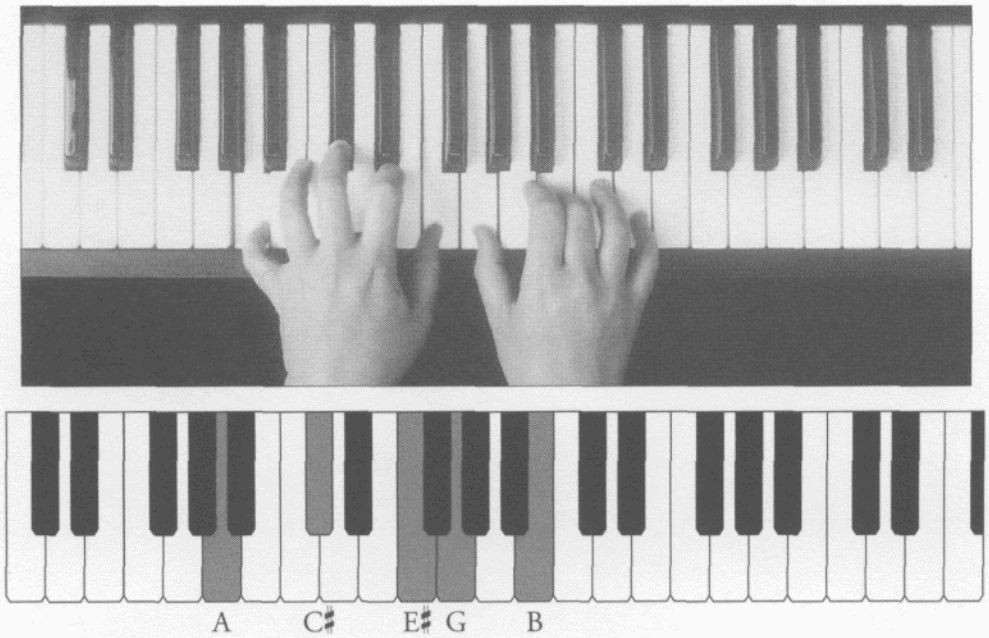

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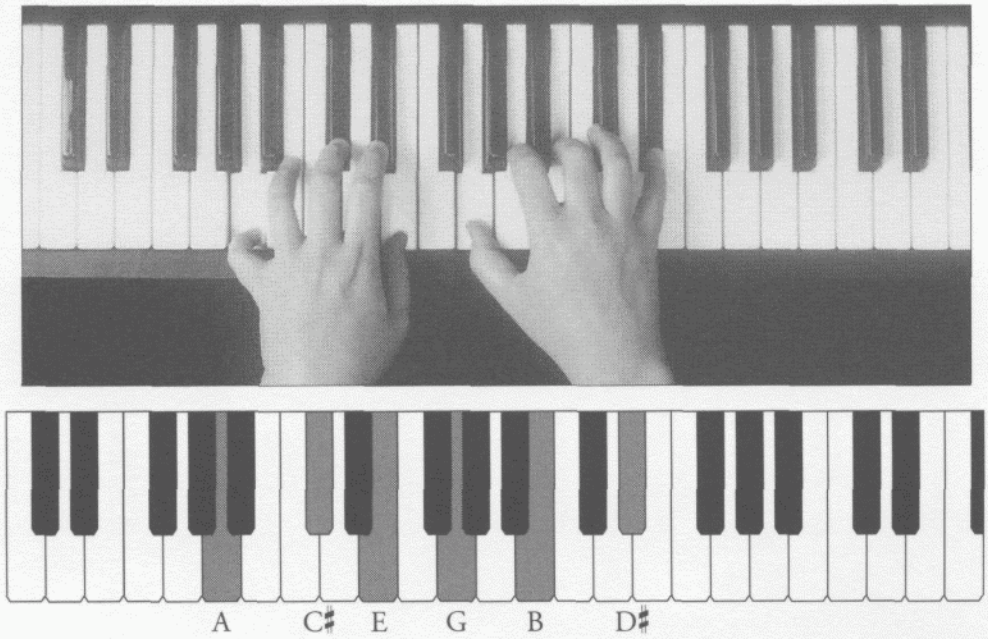
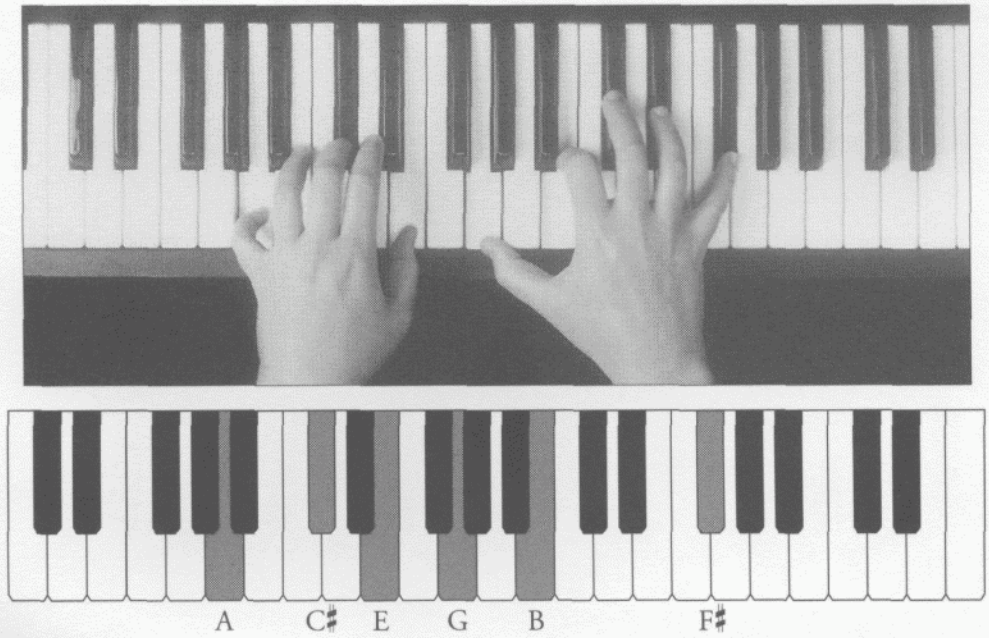


A13



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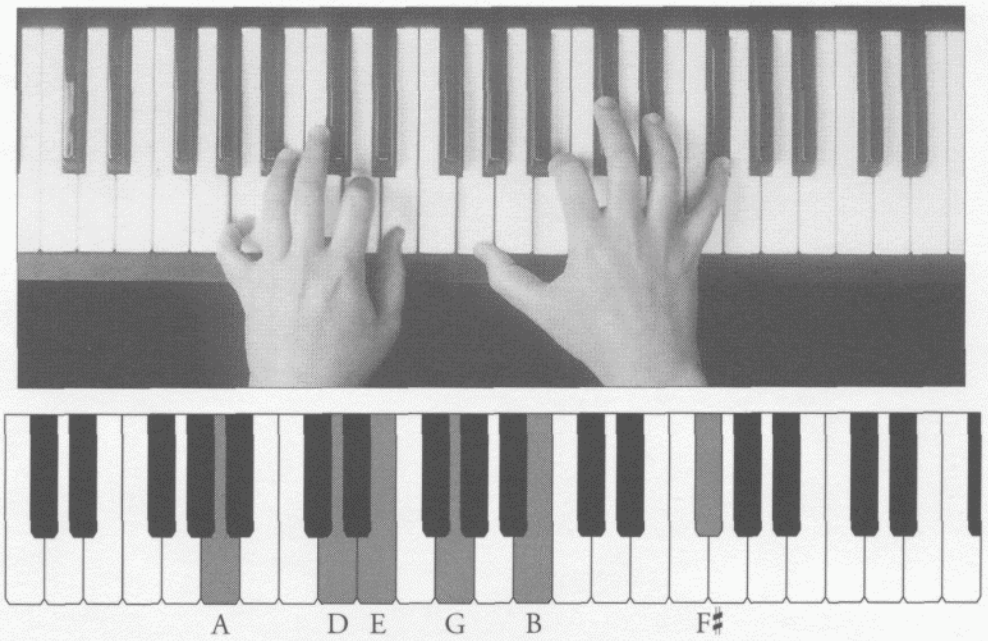

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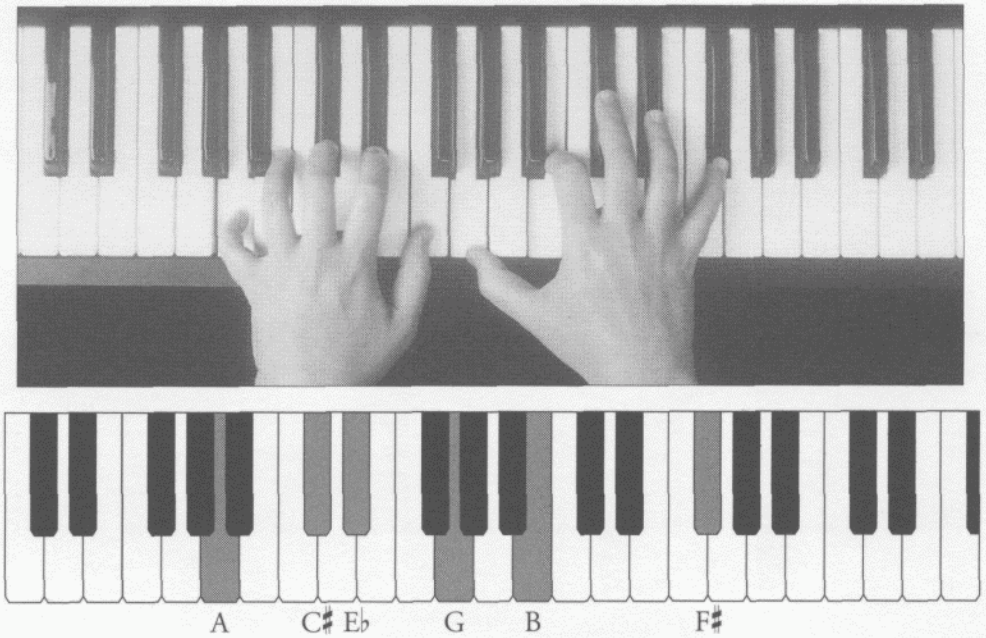

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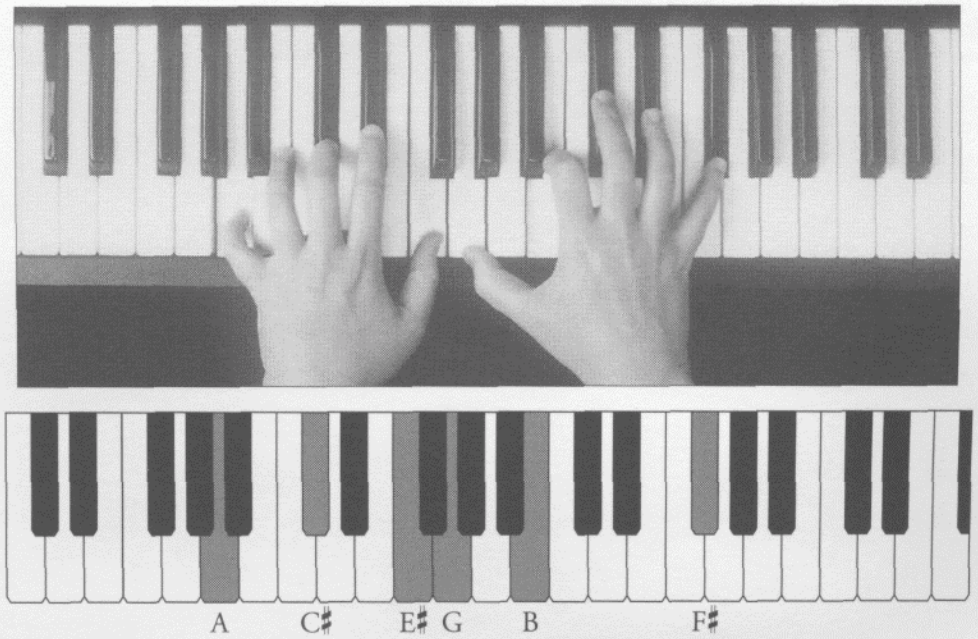

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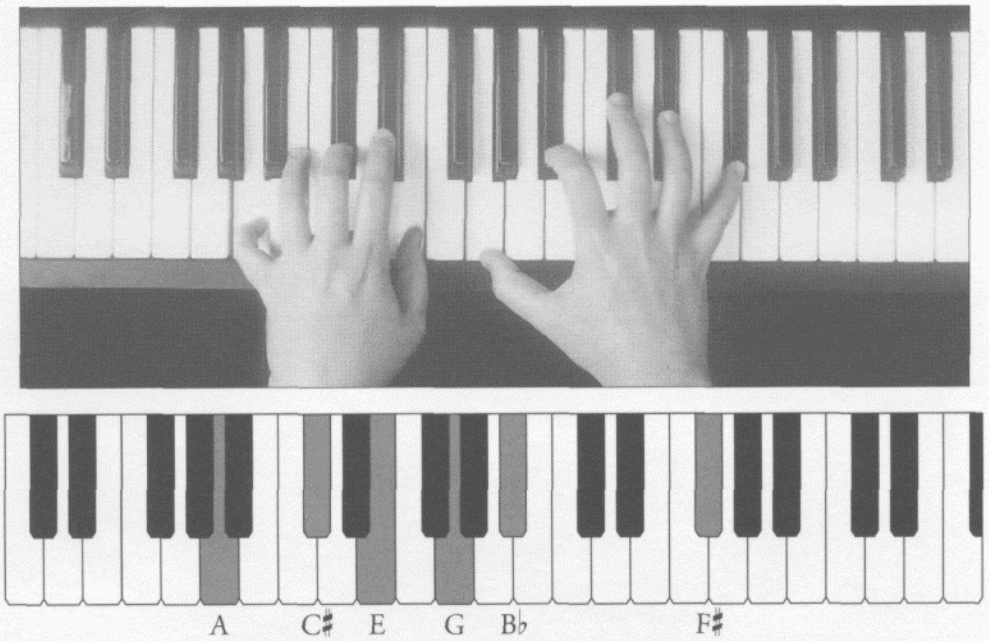

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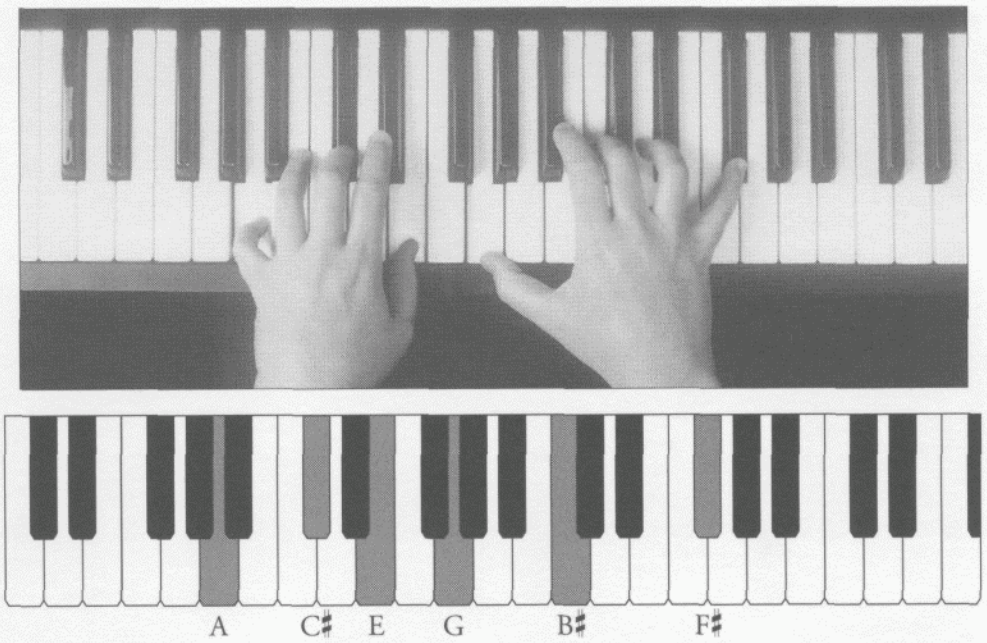

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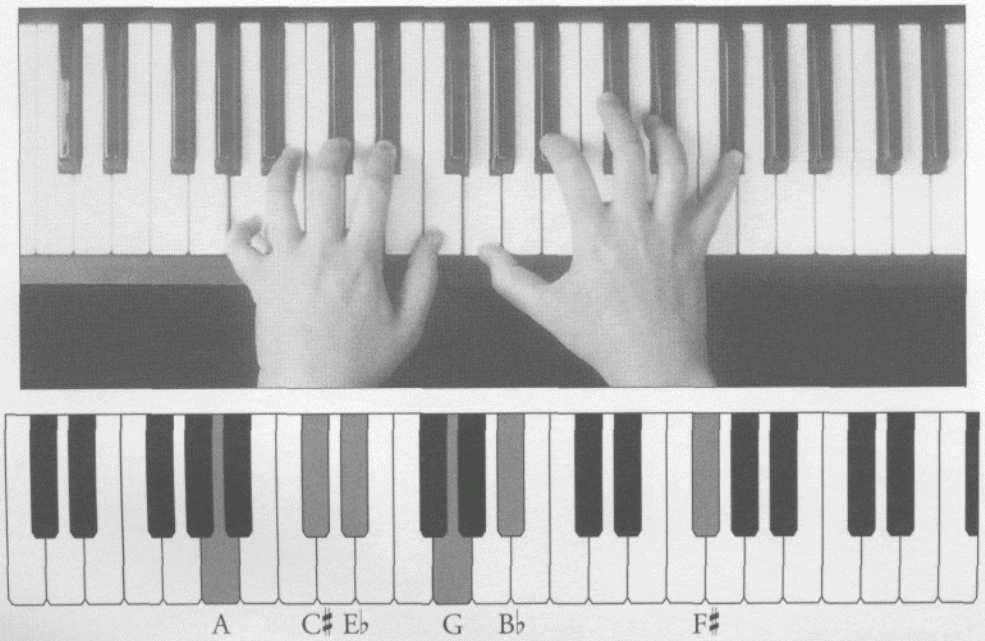

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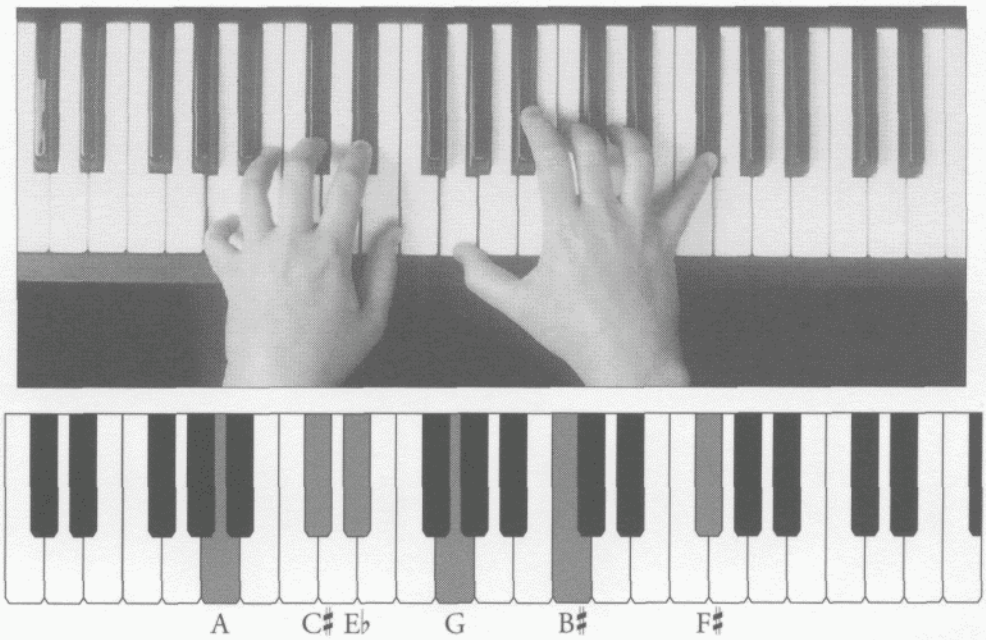

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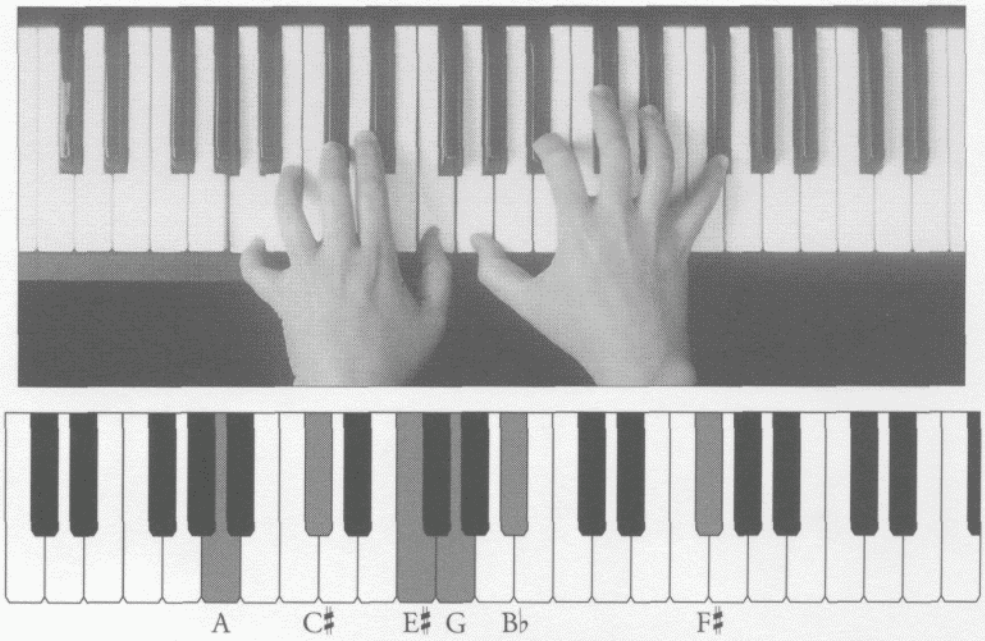

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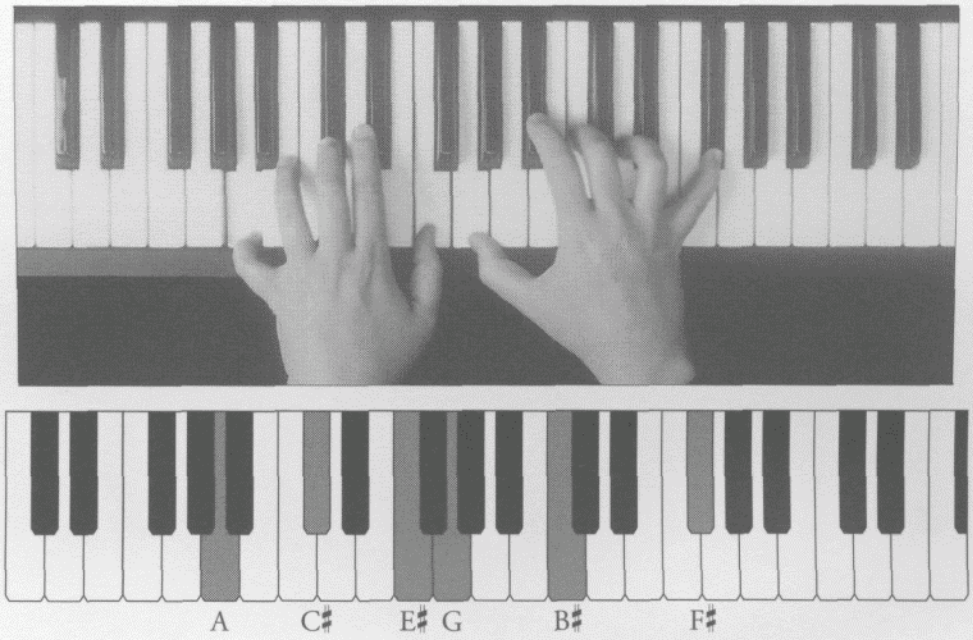
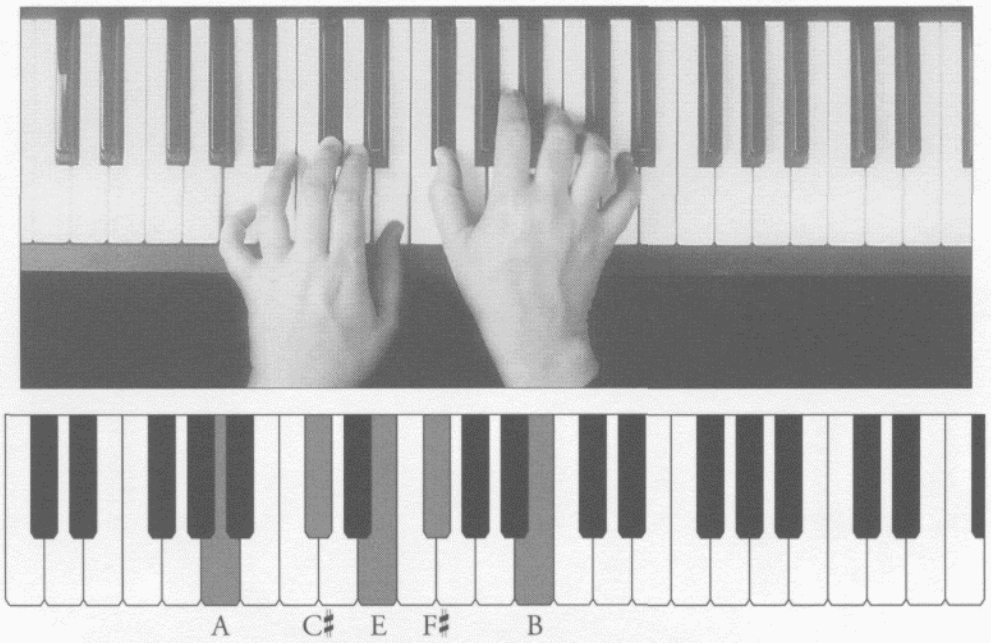
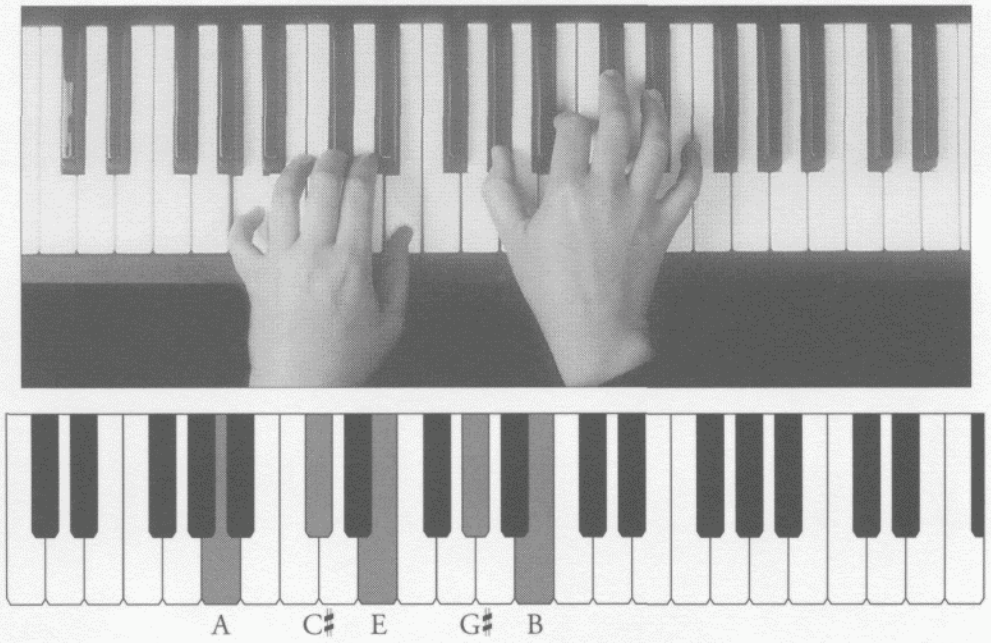


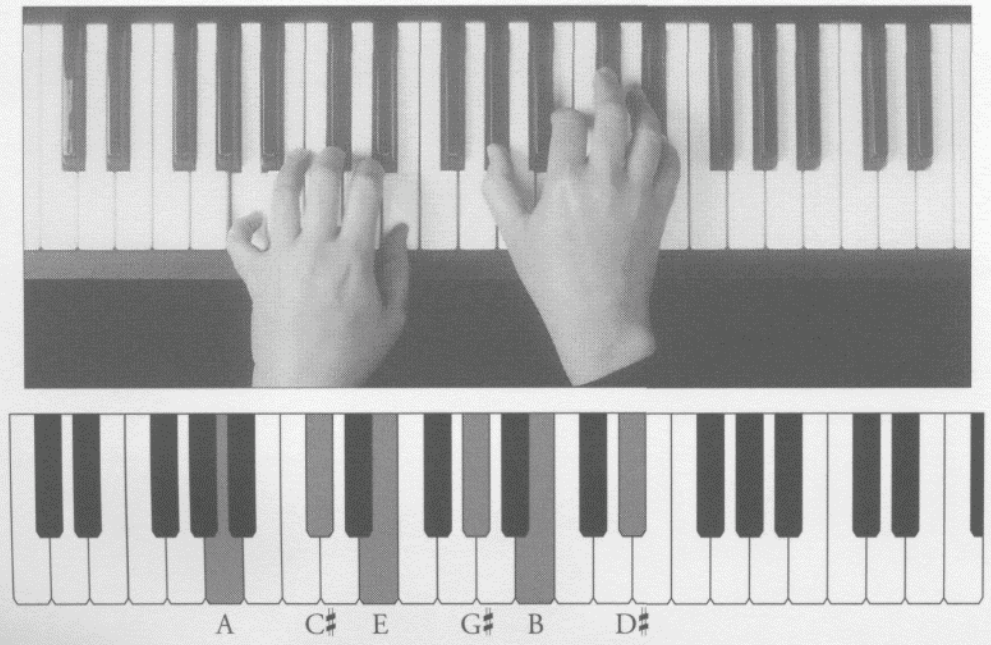
A 6/9



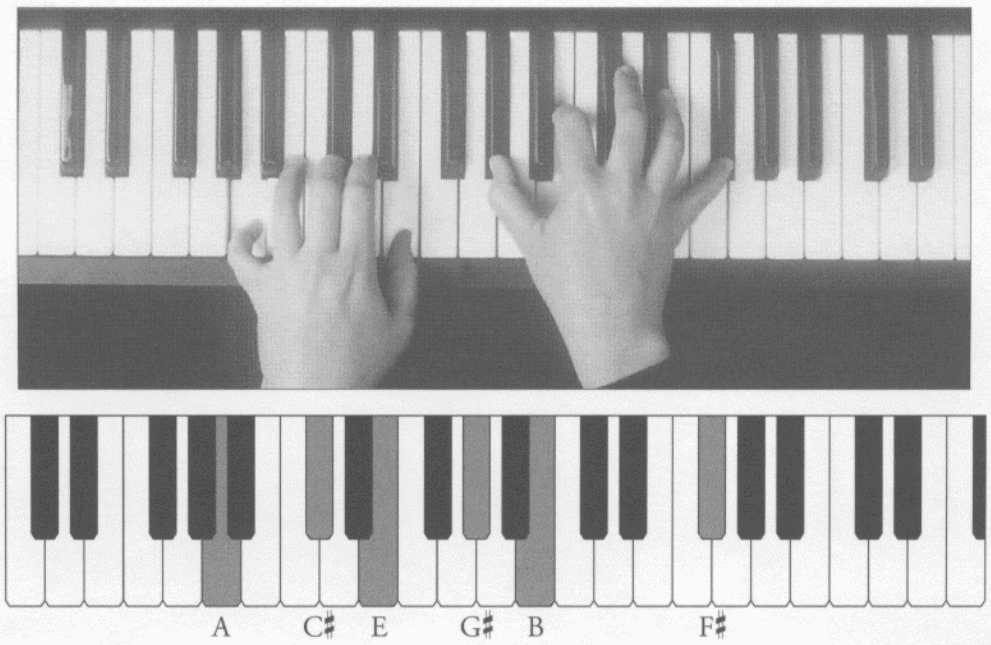
A major9



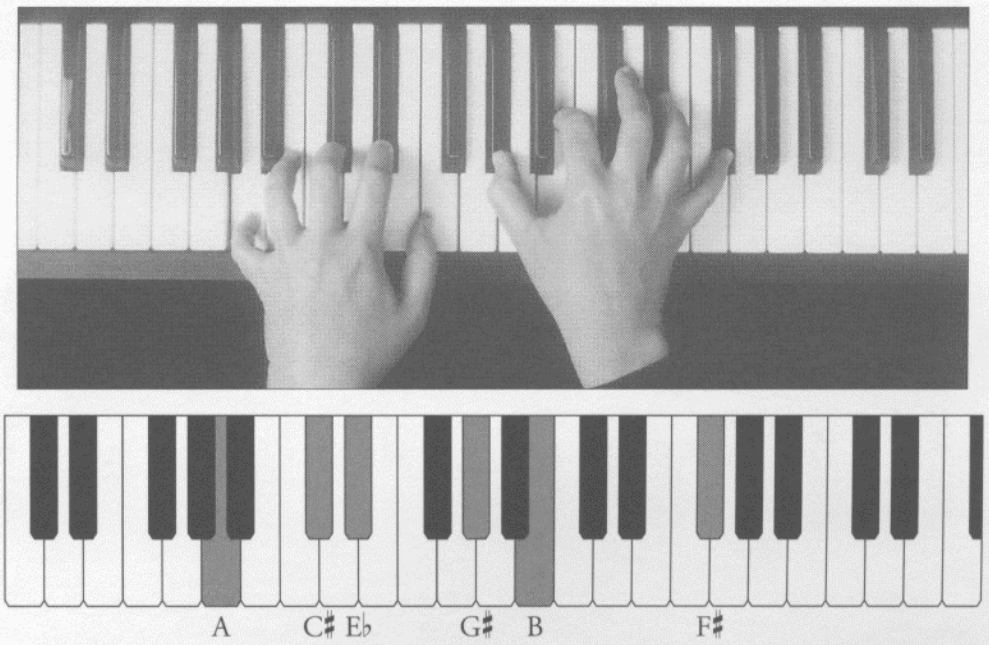
A major9♯11



A major13



A major13♭5



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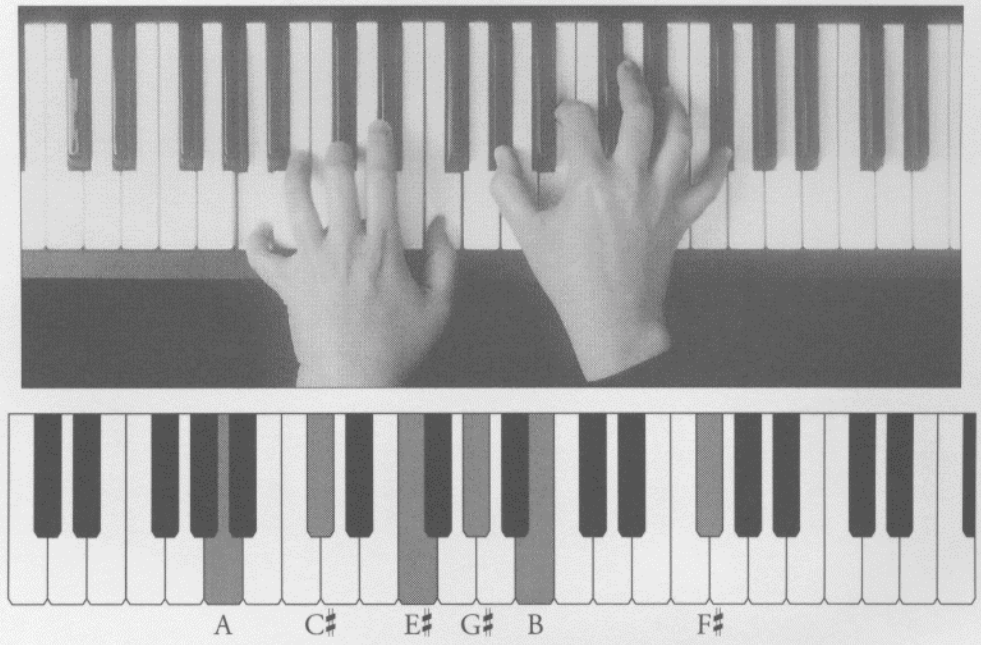

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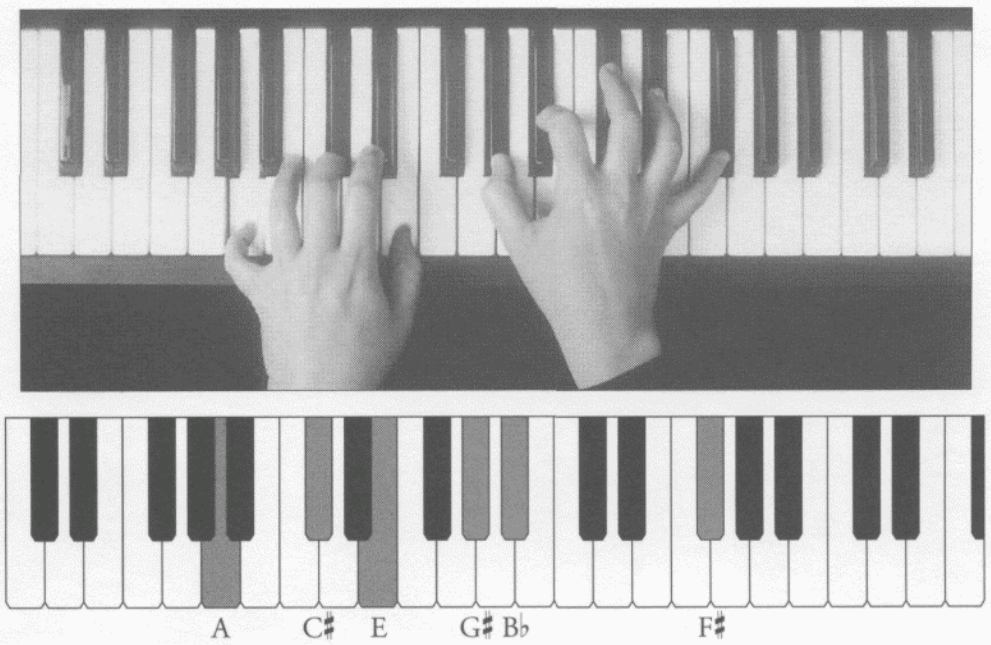

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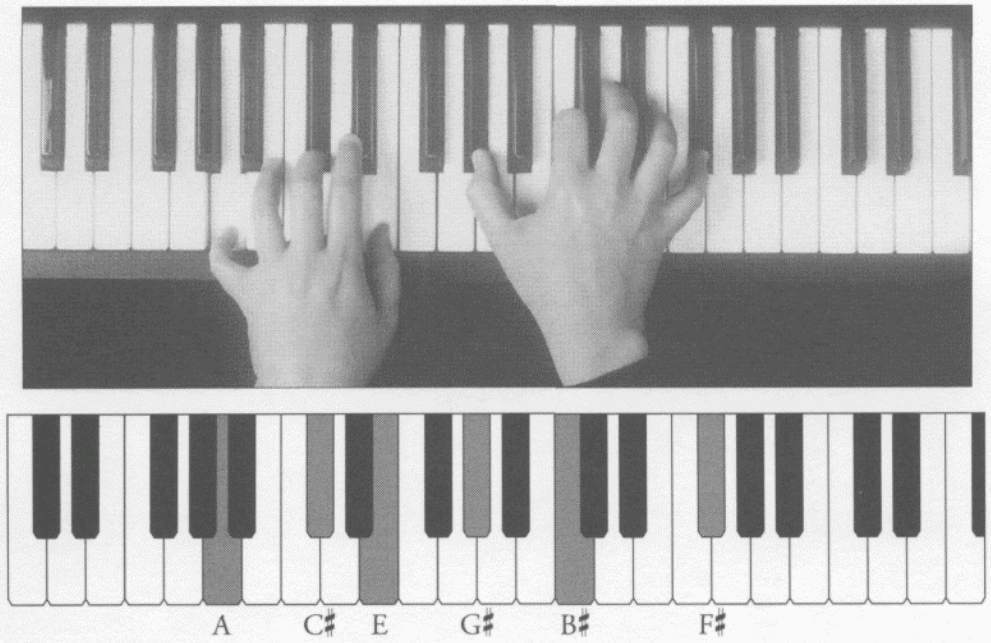
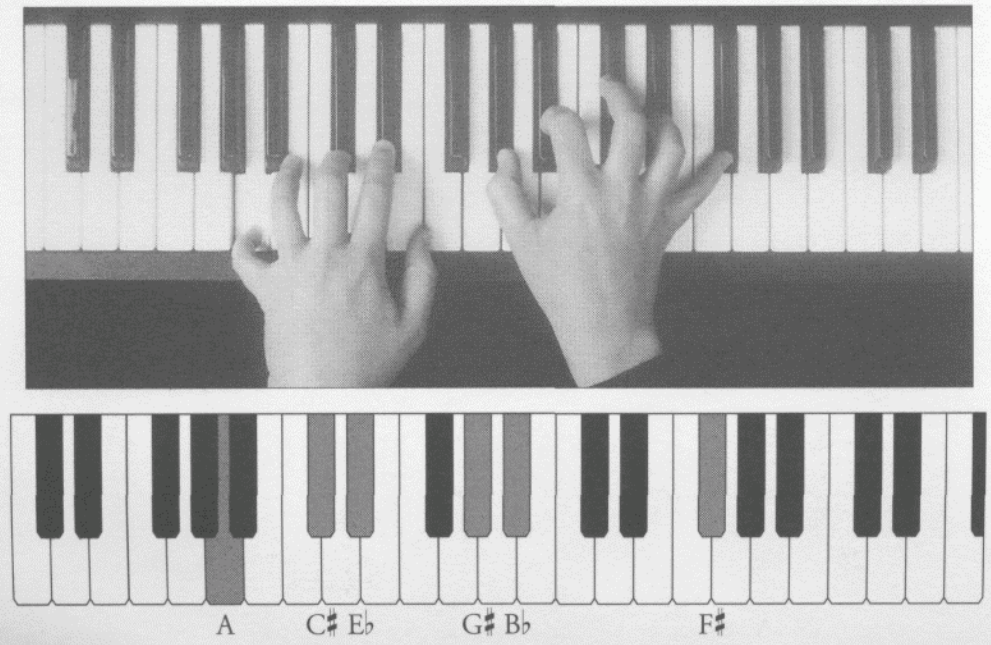


A major13♭5♭9



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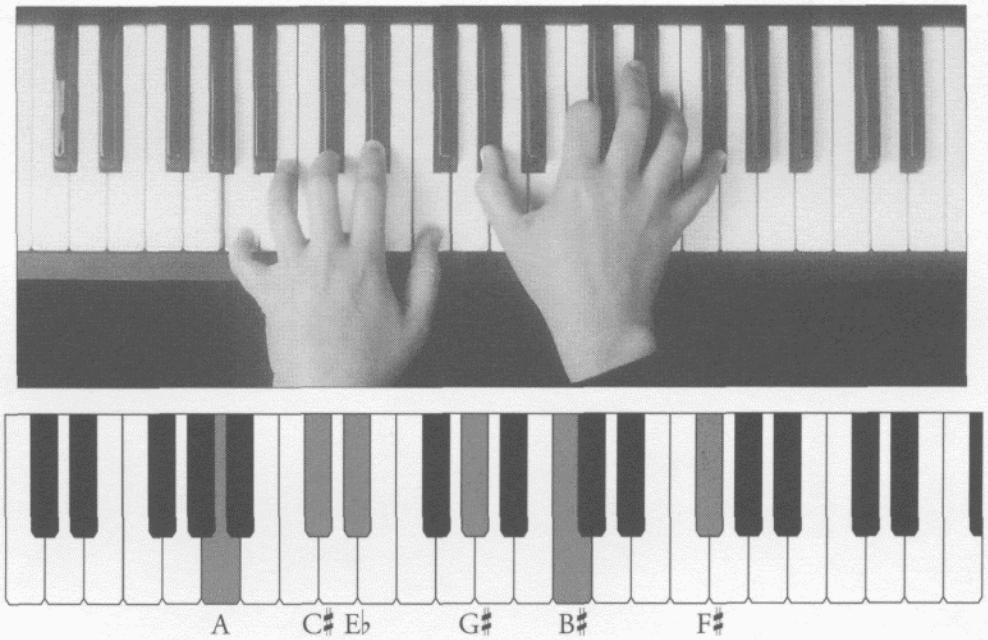

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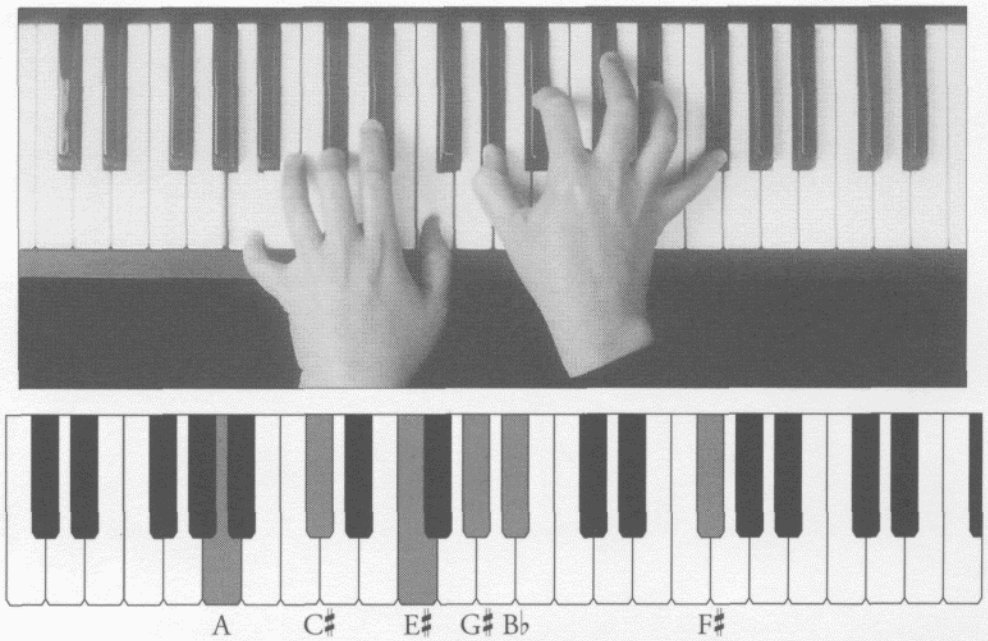
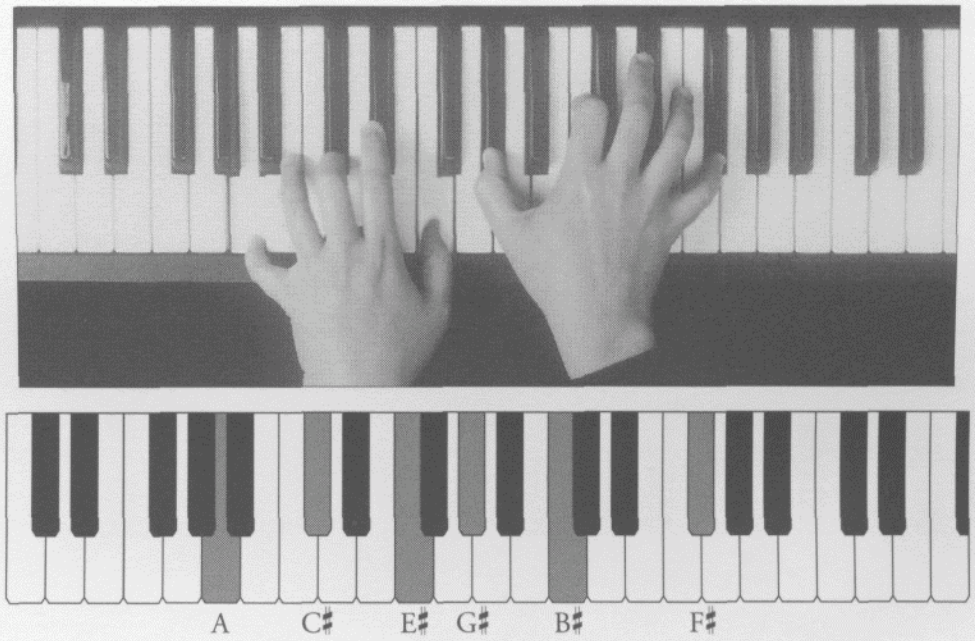


A major13♯5♯9



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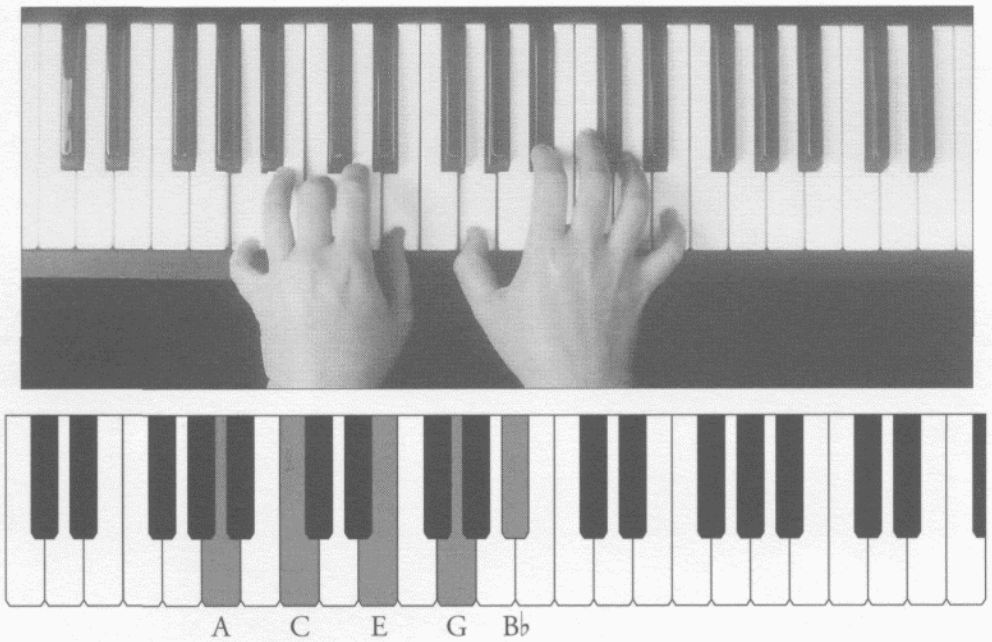
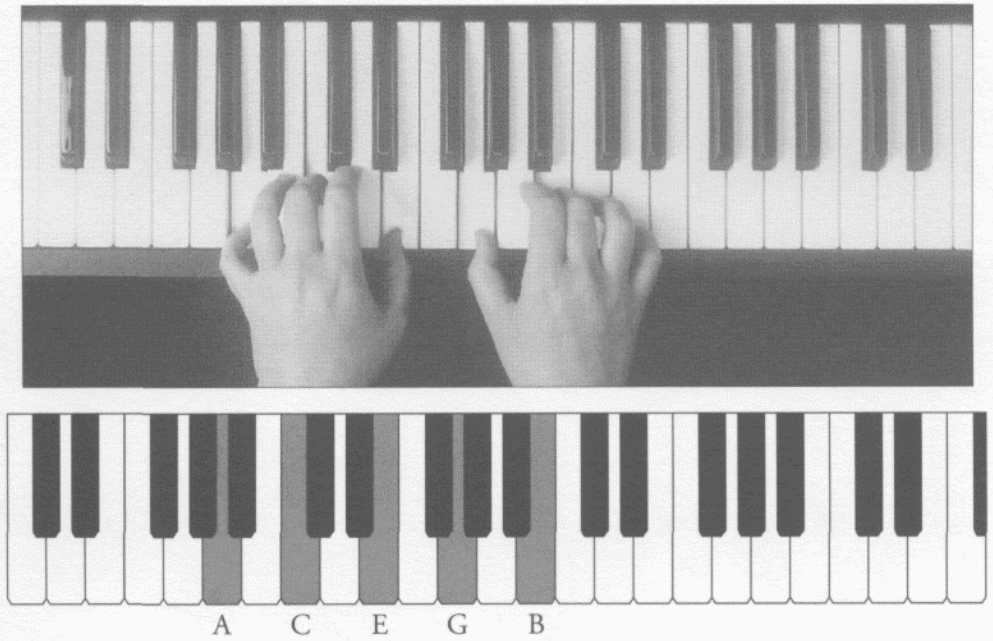


A minor9



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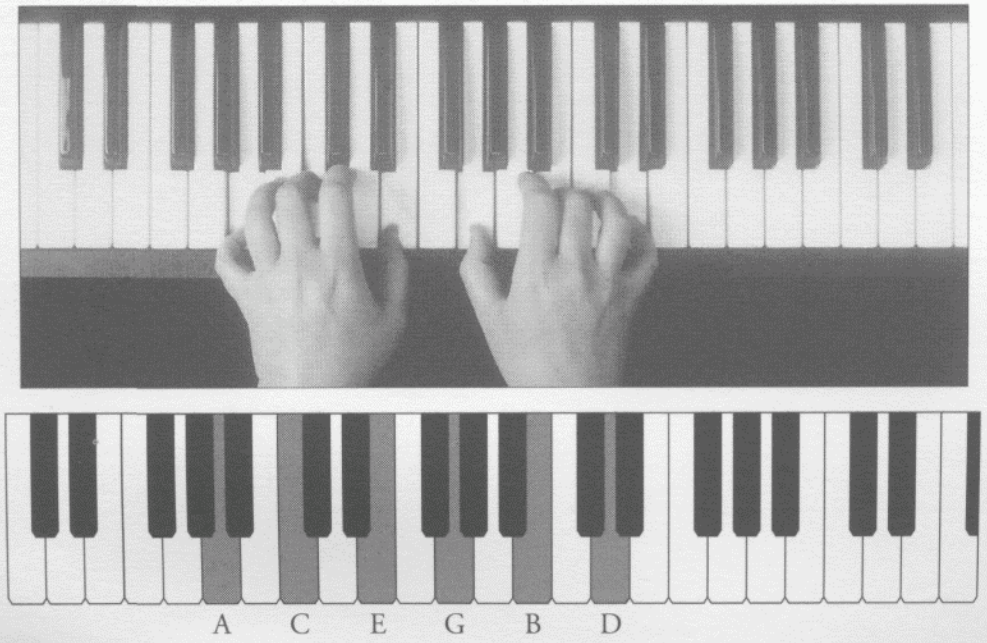
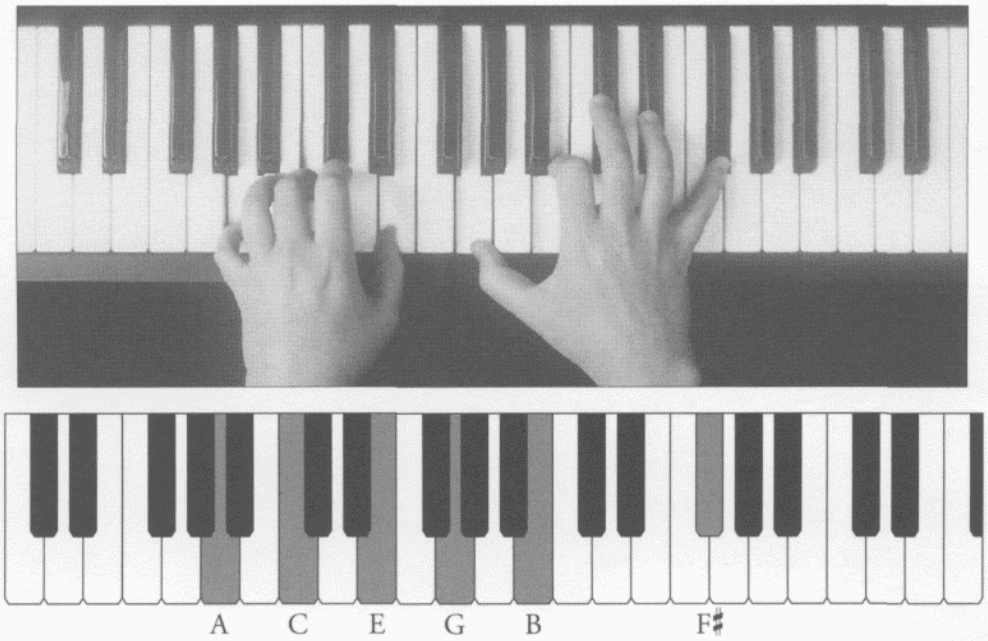
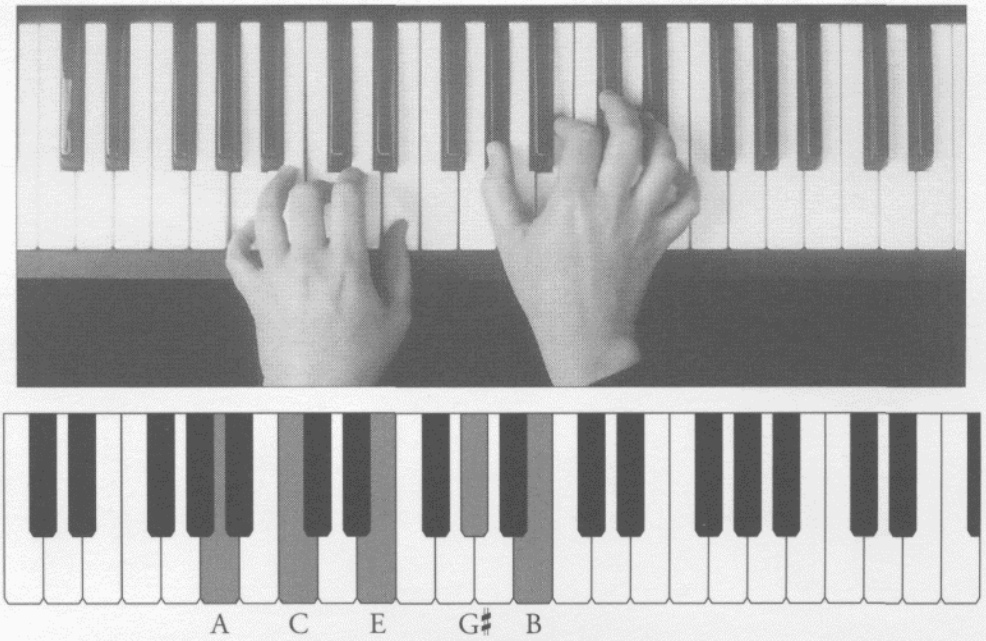


A minor13

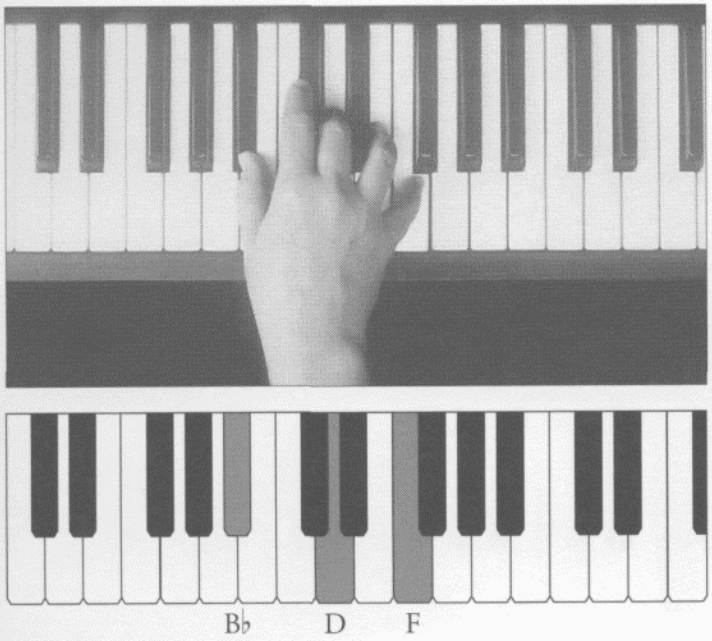


A minor9 (major7)

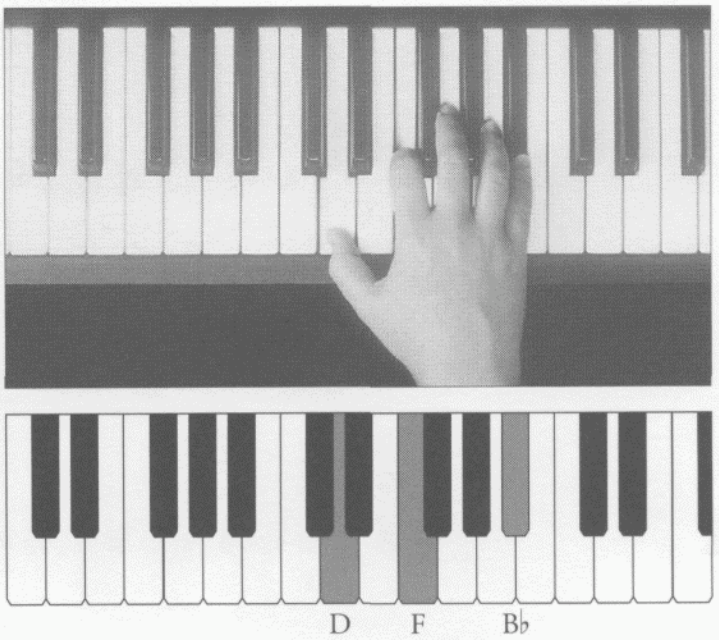


B♭ chords

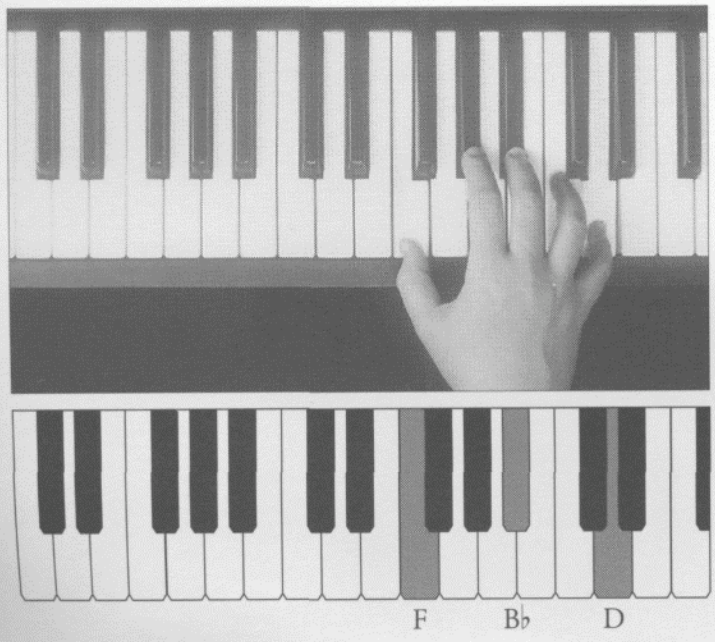
B♭ major



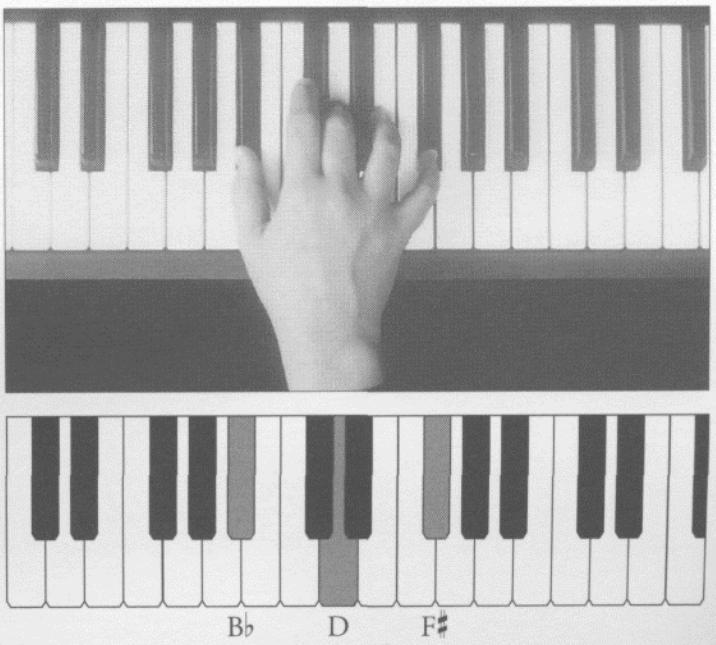
B♭/D *first inversion*



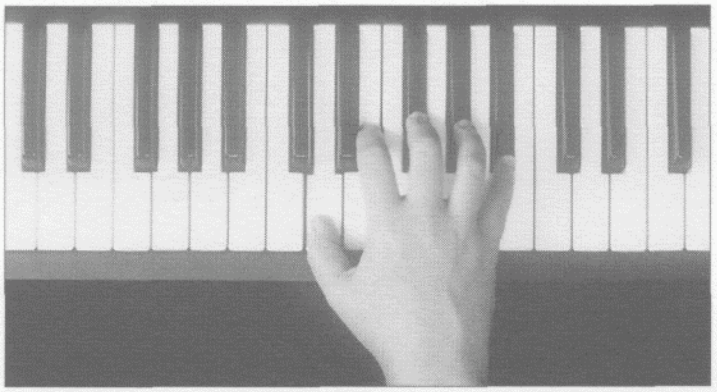
B♭/F *second inversion*

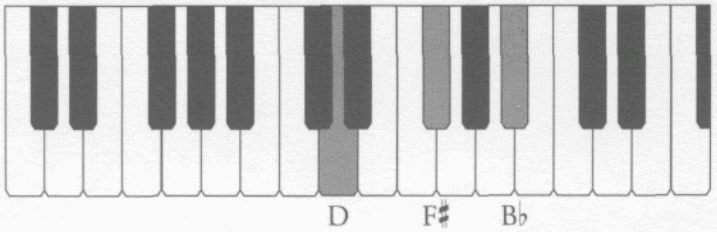


B♭ augmented

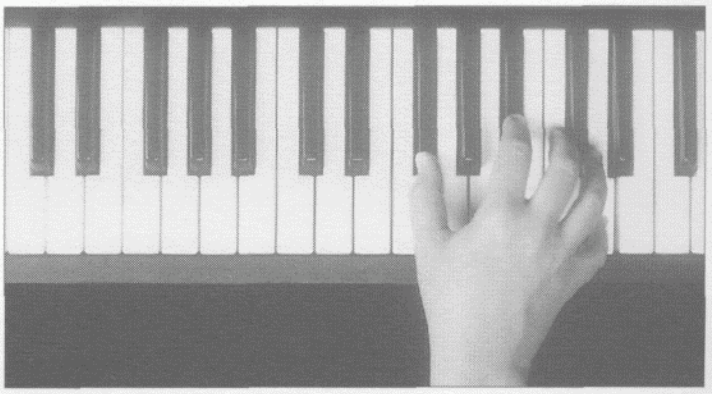


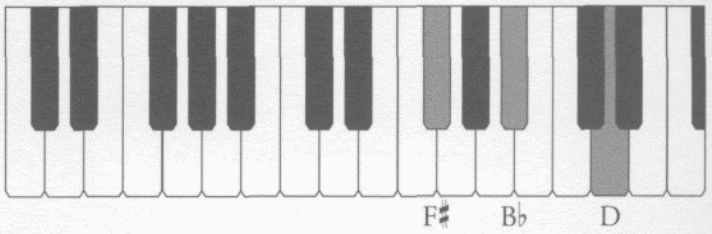
B♭ augmented *first inversion*



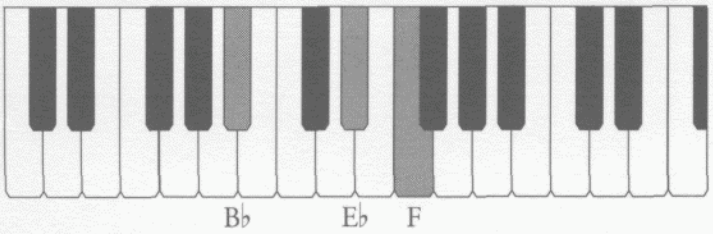


B♭ augmented *second inversion*

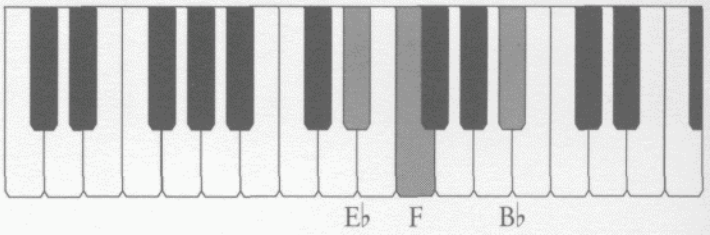




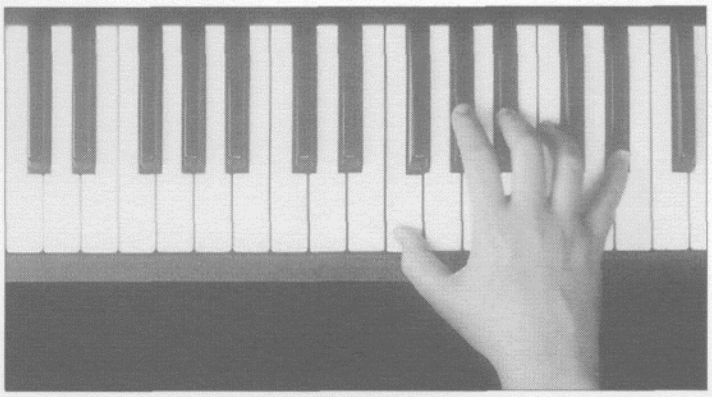
B♭sus4

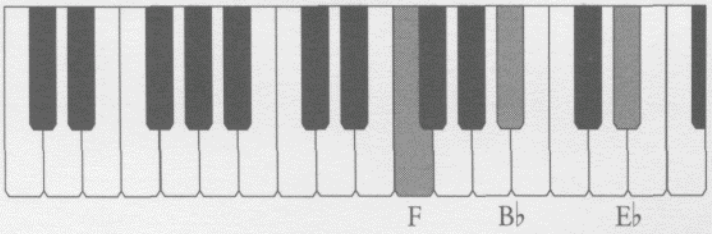


B♭sus4 *first inversion*

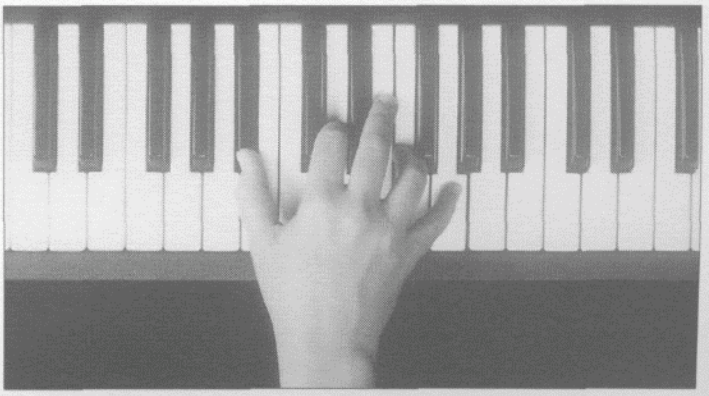


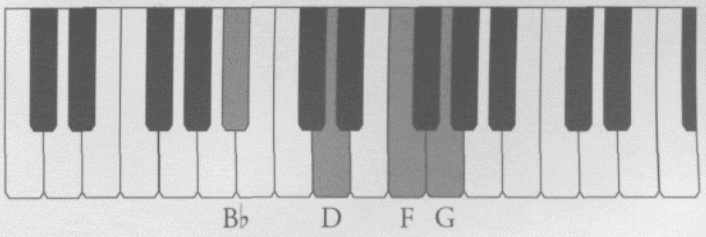
B♭sus4 *second inversion*



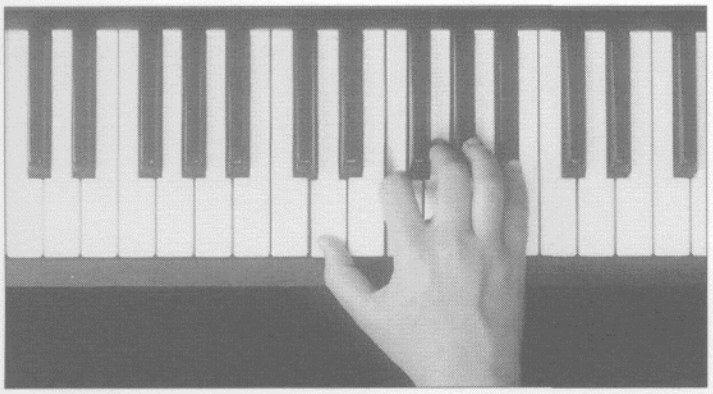


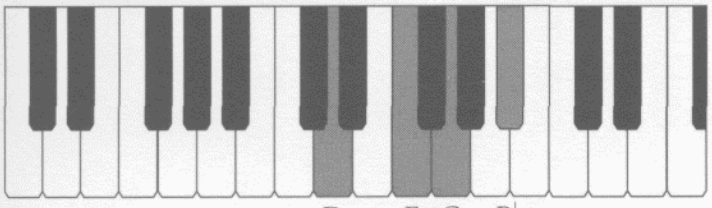
B♭6



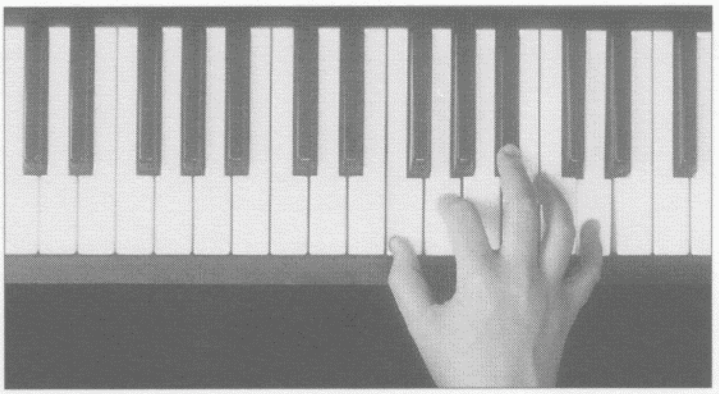


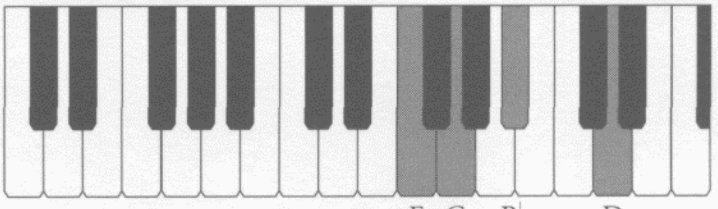
B♭6 *first inversion*



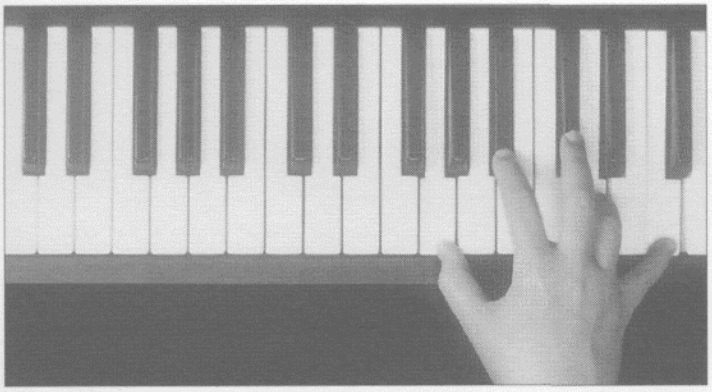


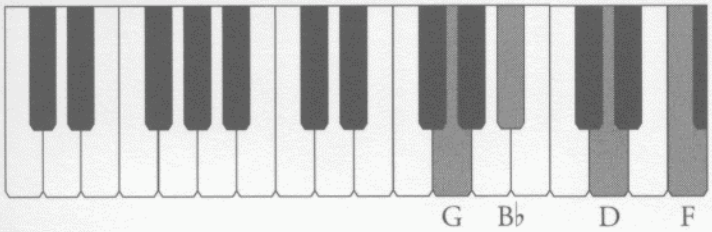
B♭6 *second inversion*



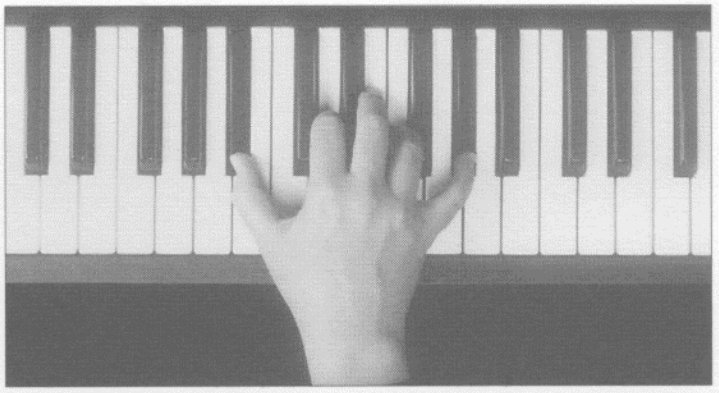


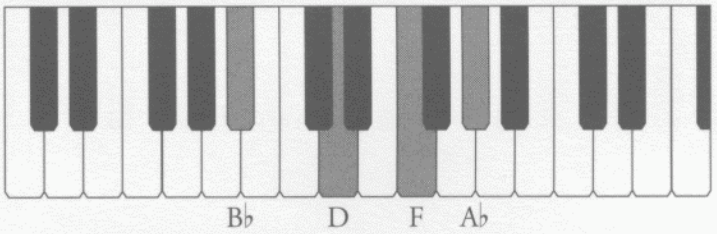
B♭6 *third inversion*



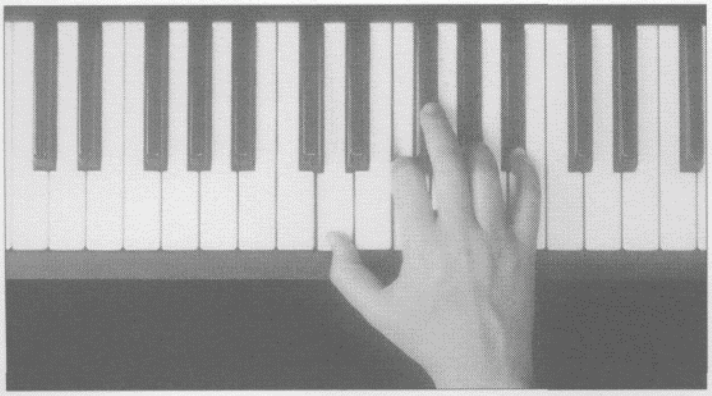


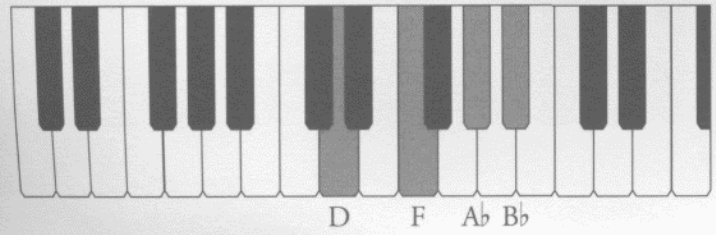
B♭7



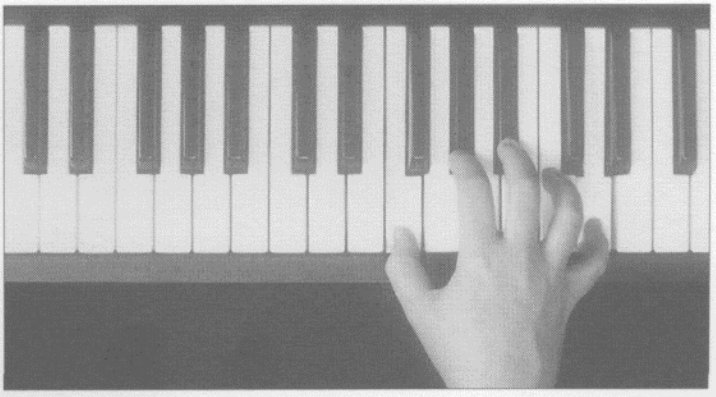


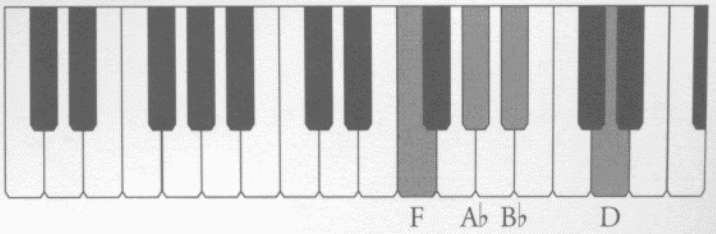
B♭7 *first inversion*



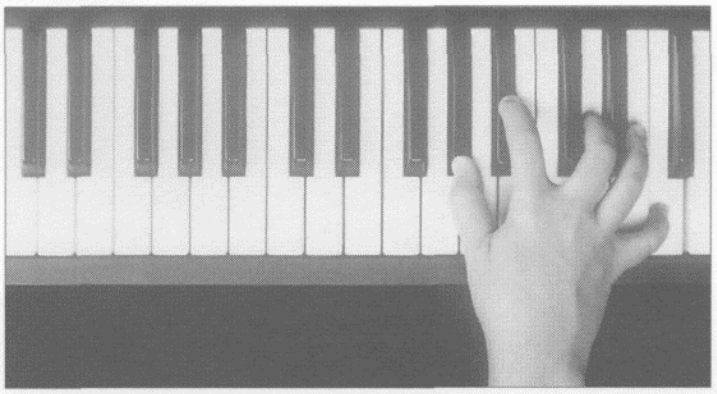


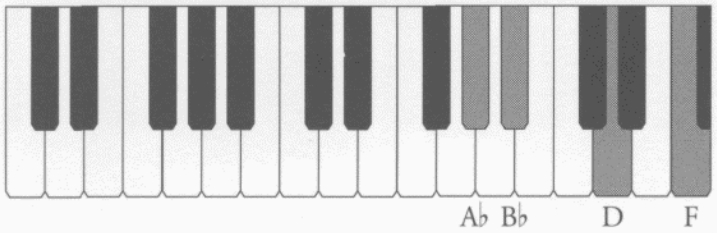
B♭7 *second inversion*



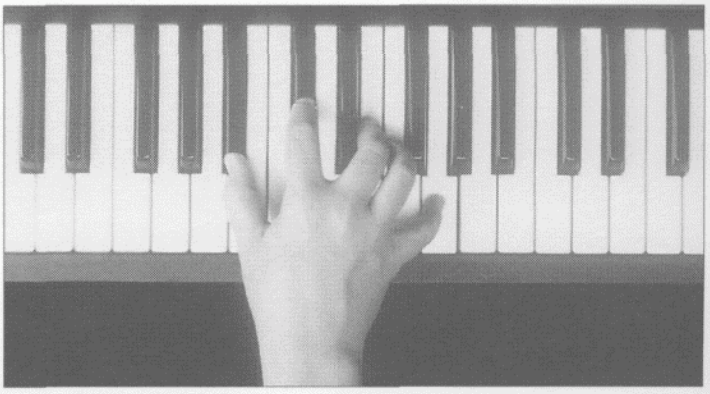


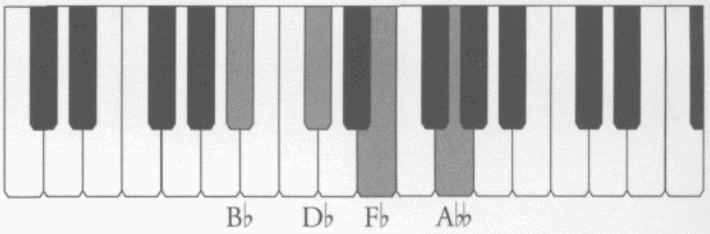
B♭7 *third inversion*



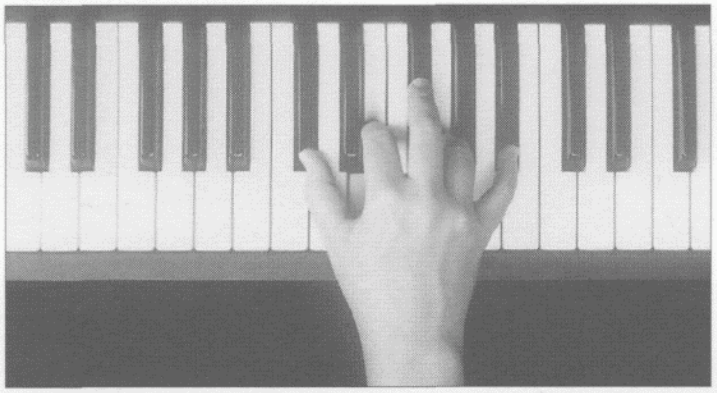


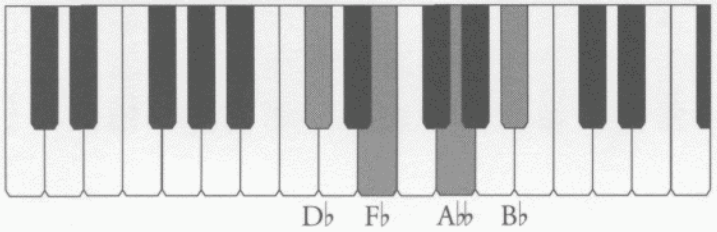
B♭°7



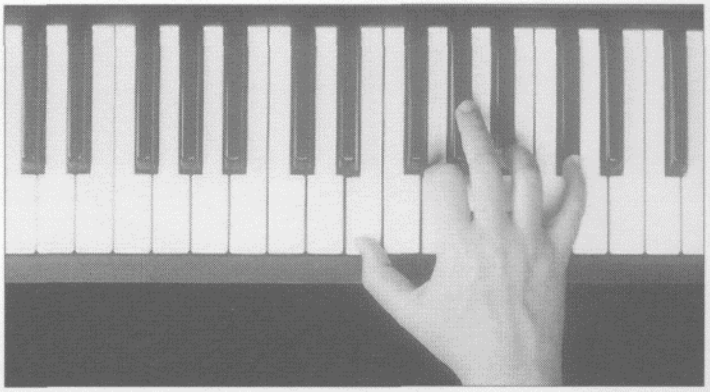


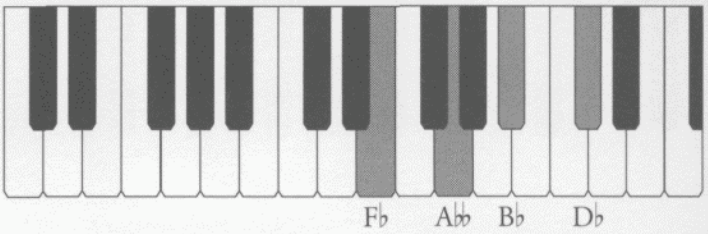
B♭°7 *first inversion*



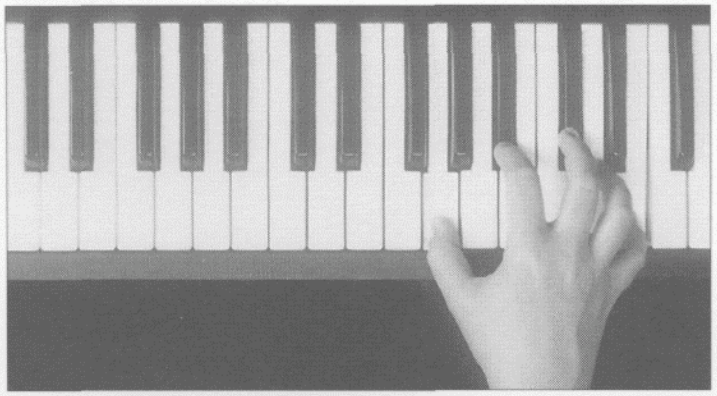


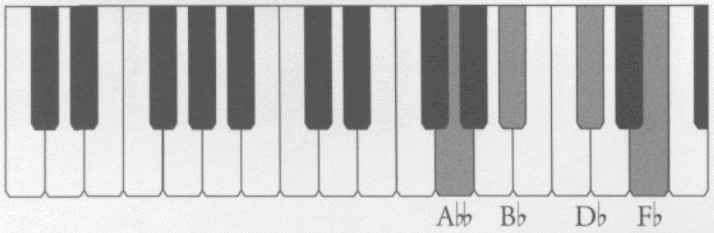
B♭°7 *second inversion*



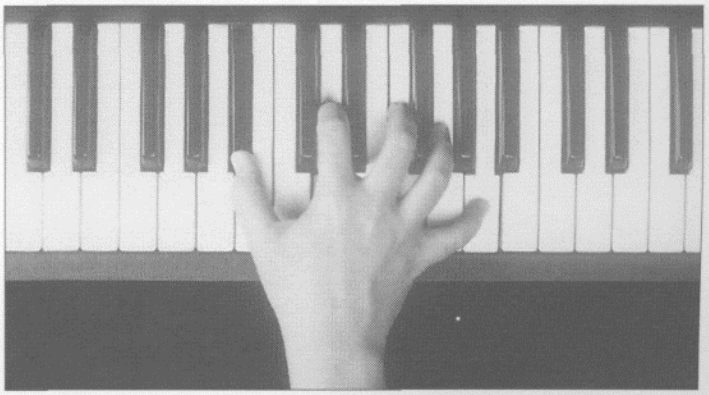


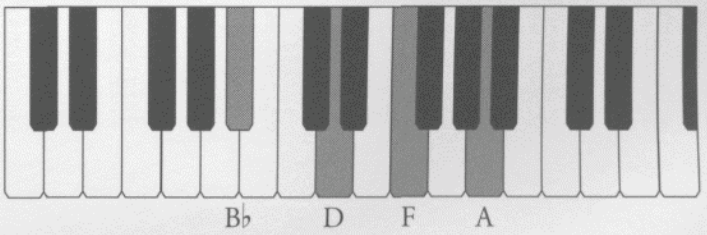
B♭°7 *third inversion*



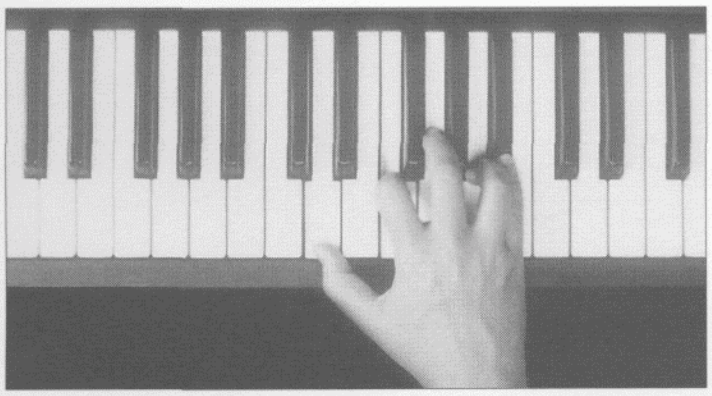


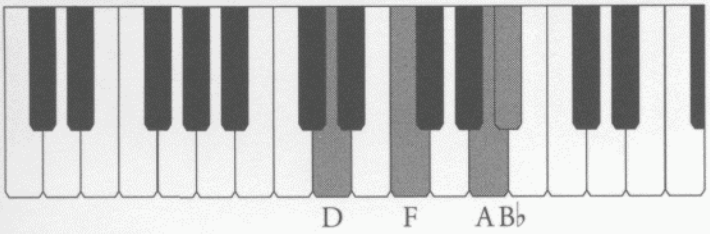
B♭ major7



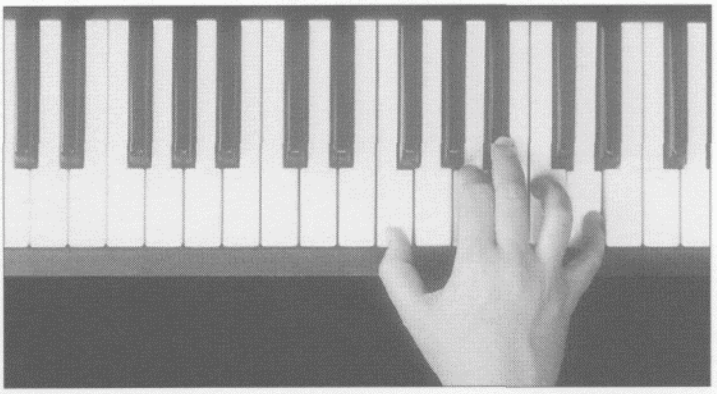


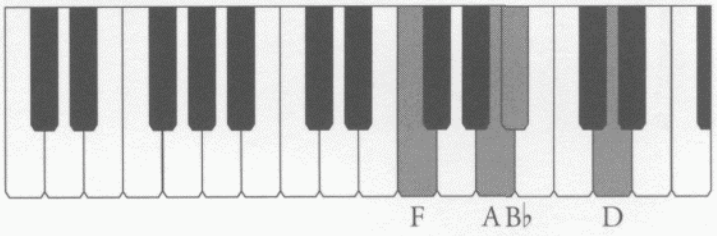
B♭ major7 *first inversion*



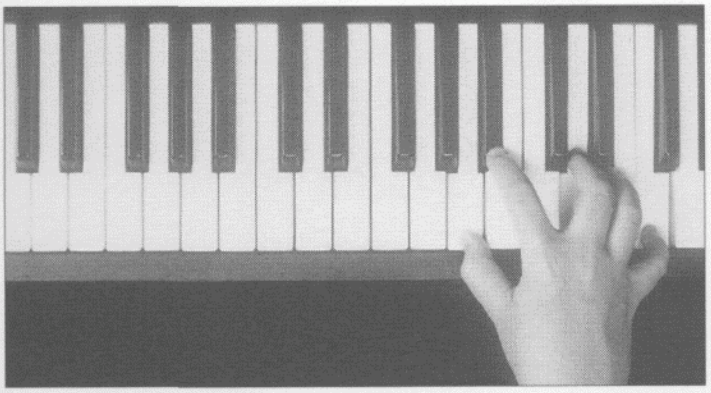


B♭ major7 *second inversion*

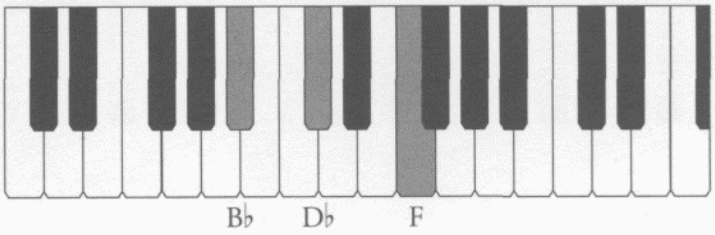




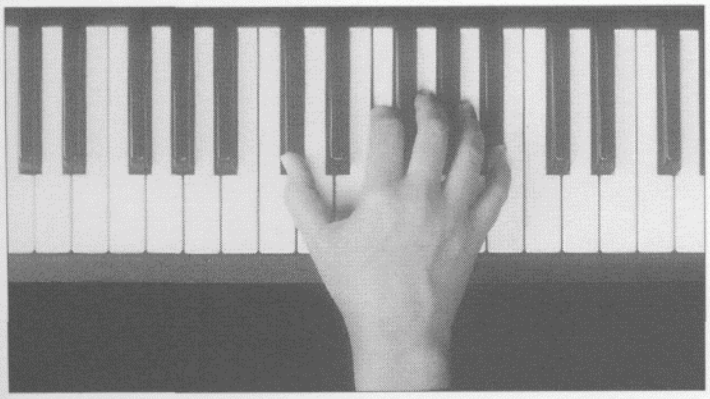
B♭ major7 *third inversion*

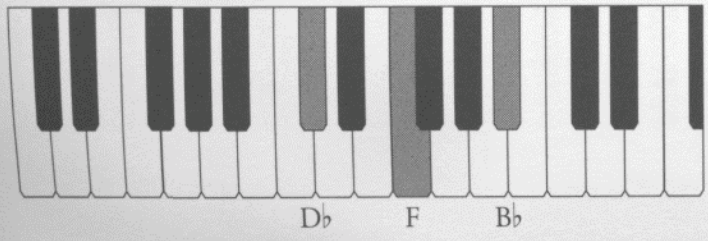


B♭ minor

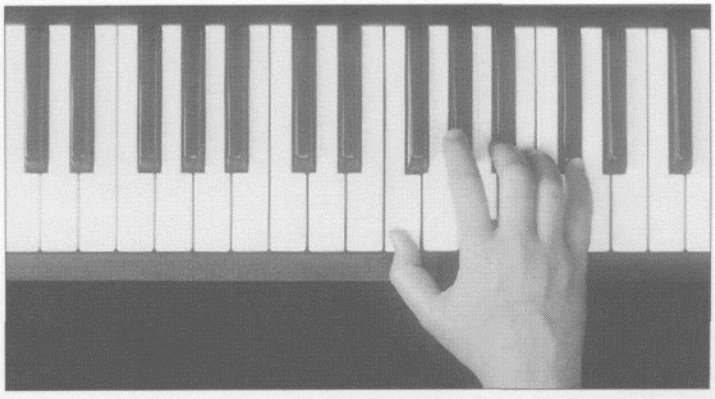


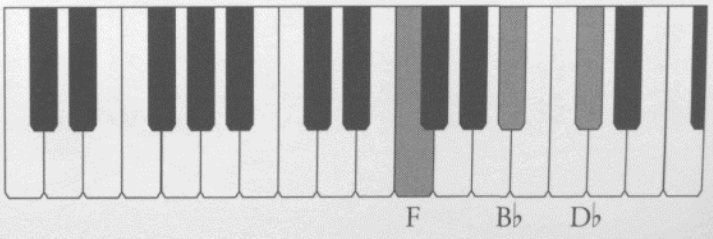
B♭ minor *first inversion*



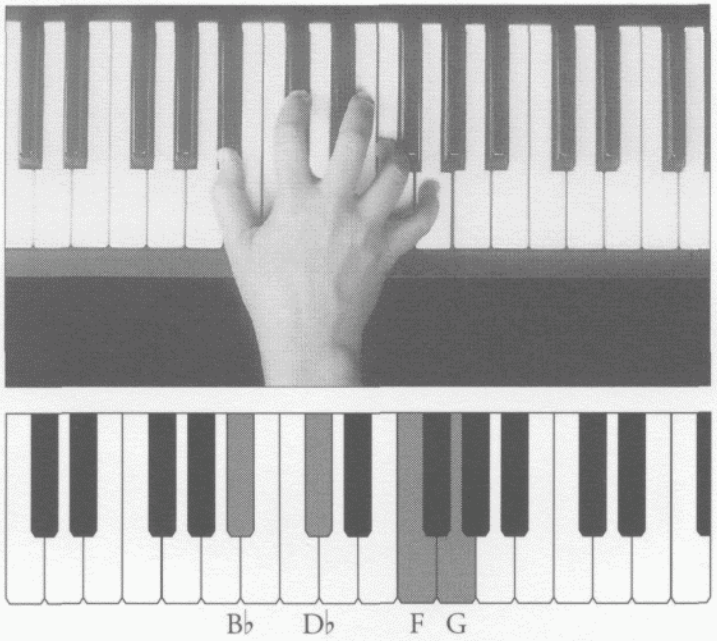


B♭ minor *second inversion*

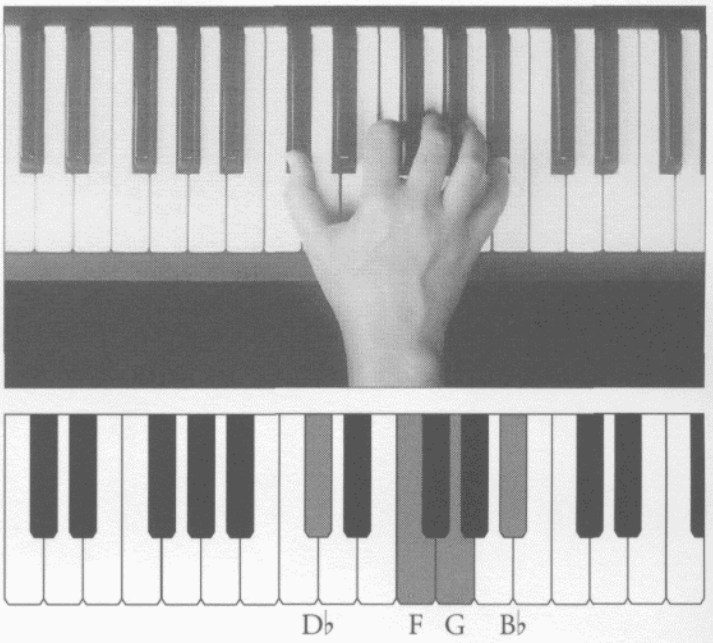




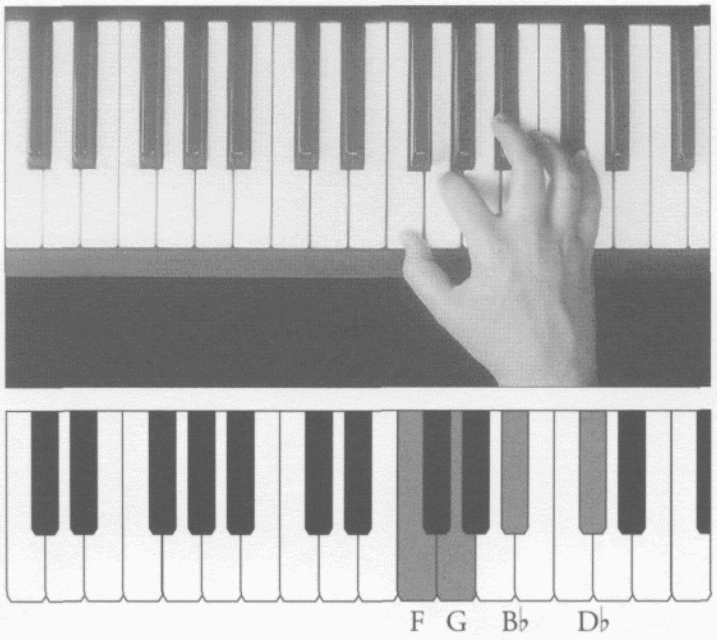
B♭ minor6



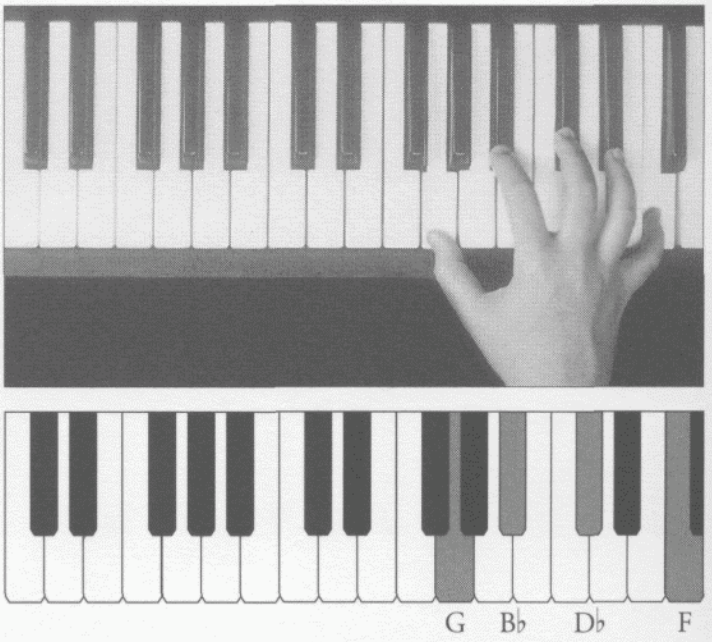
B♭ minor6 *first inversion*



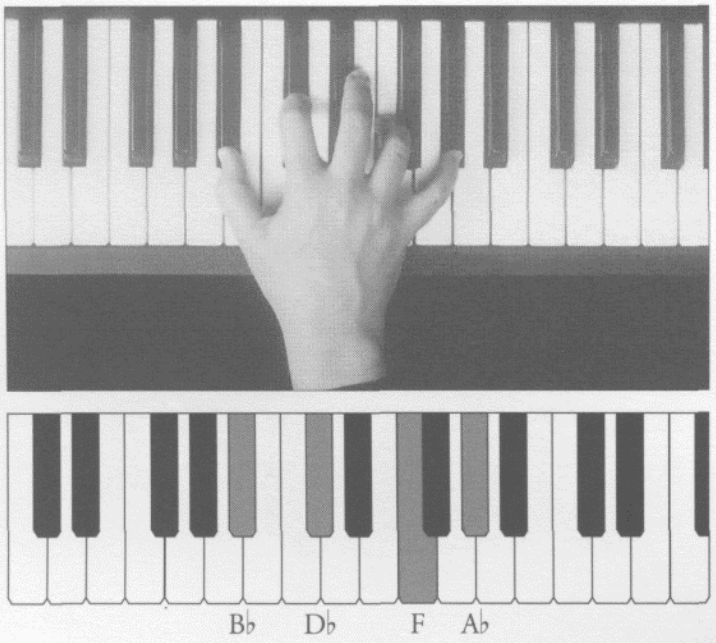
B♭ minor6 *second inversion*



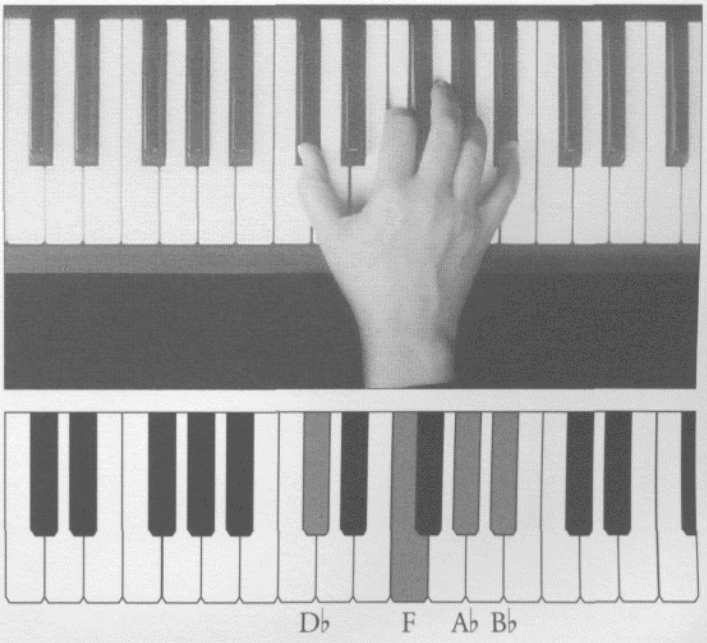
B♭ minor6 *third inversion*



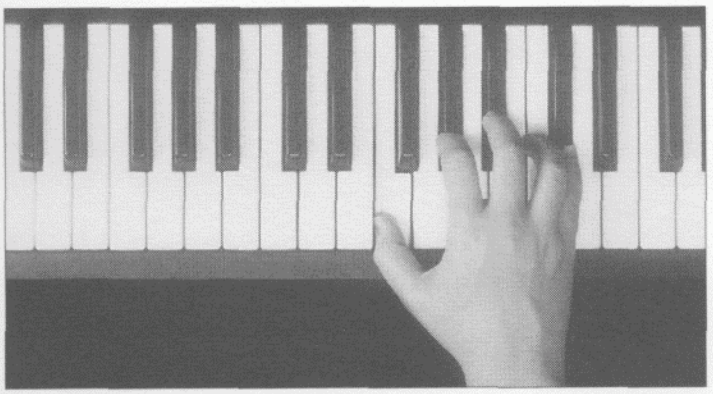
B♭ minor7



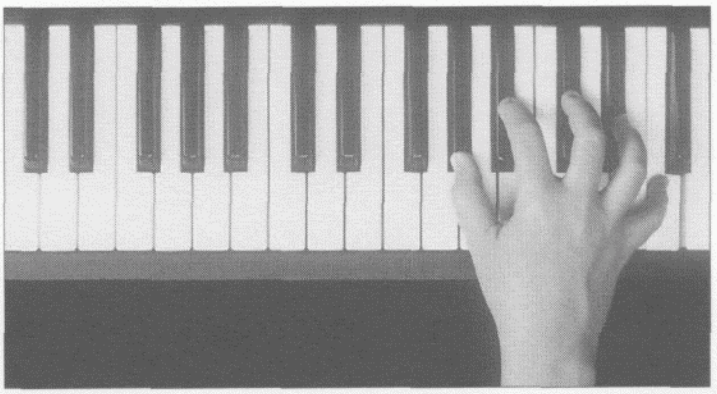
B♭ minor7 *first inversion*

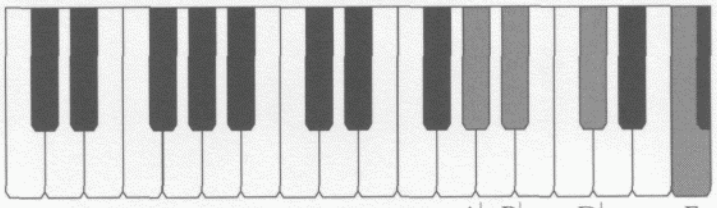


B♭ minor7 *second inversion*

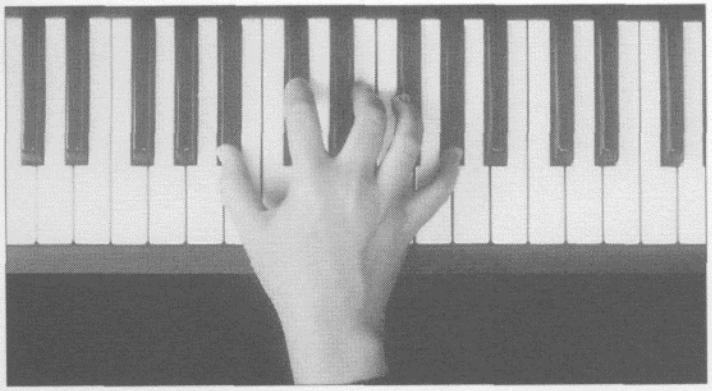


B♭ minor7 *third inversion*

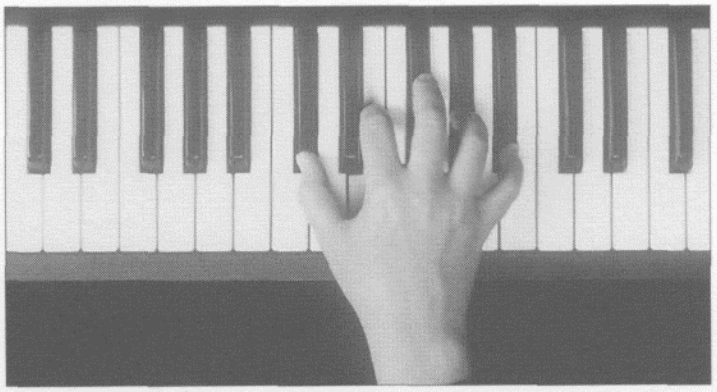




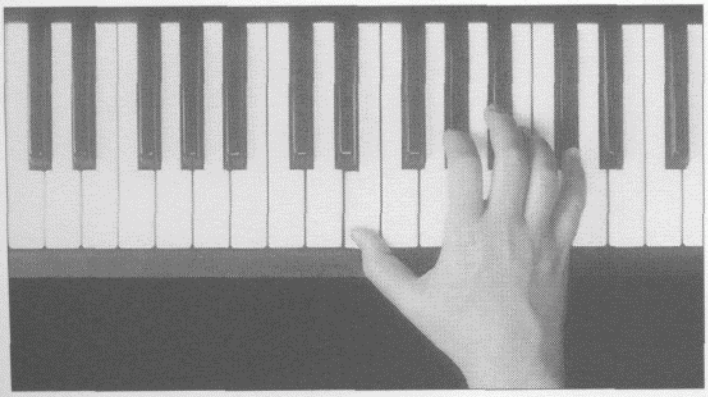
B♭ minor7♭5

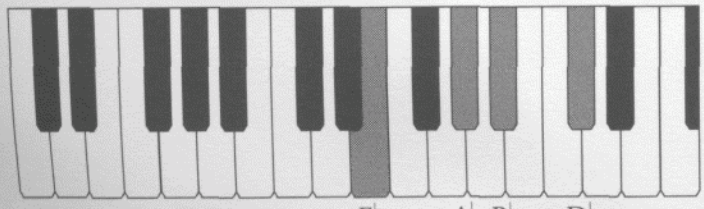


B♭ minor7♭5 *first inversion*

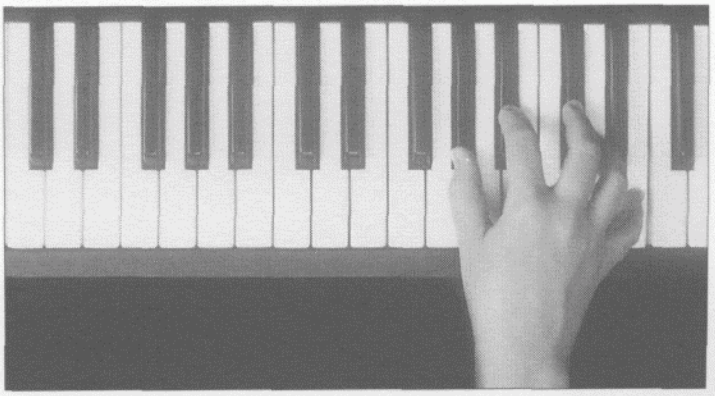


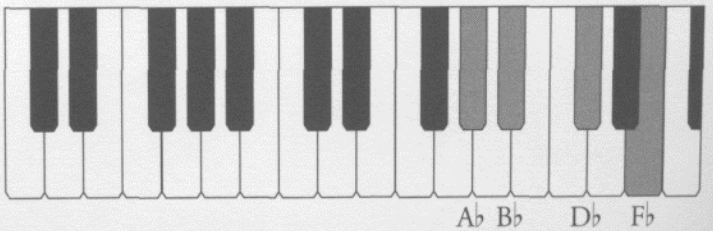
B♭ minor7♭5 *second inversion*



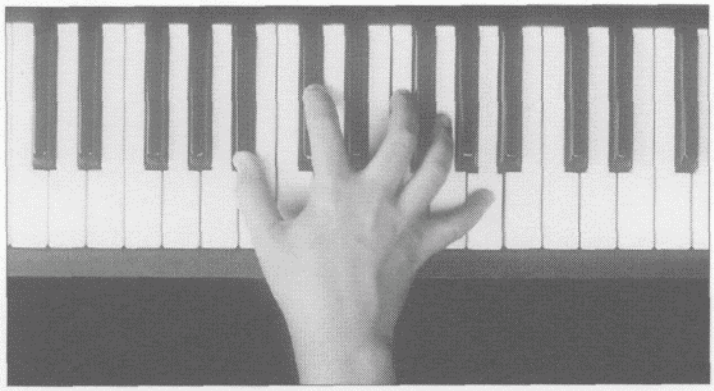


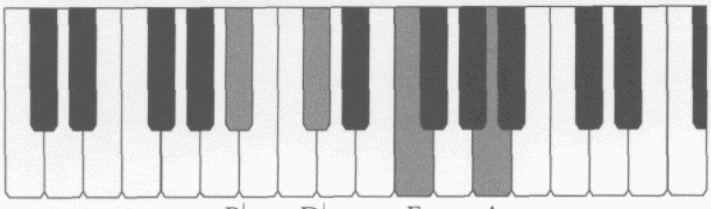
B♭ minor7♭5 *third inversion*



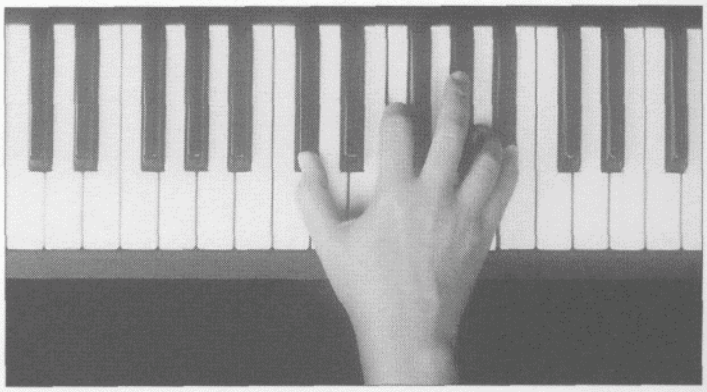


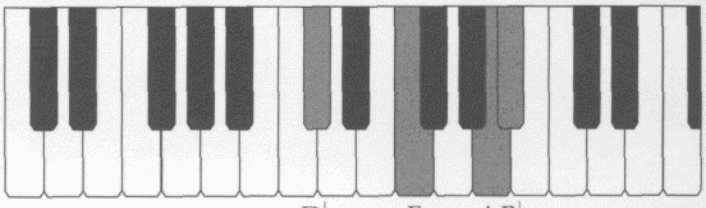
B♭ minor (major7)



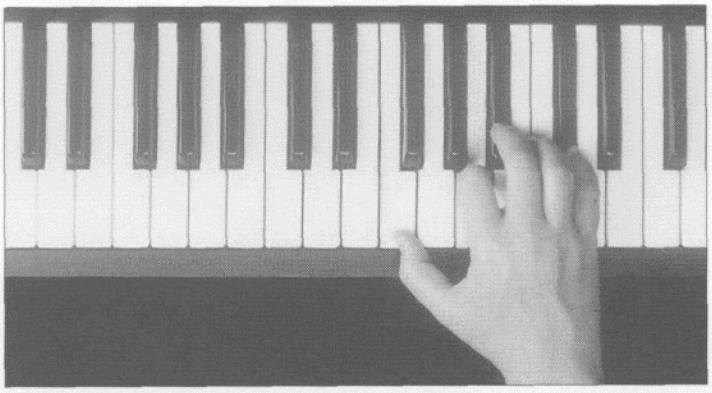


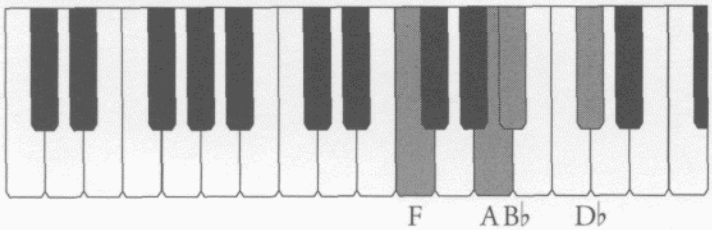
B♭ minor (major7) *first inversion*



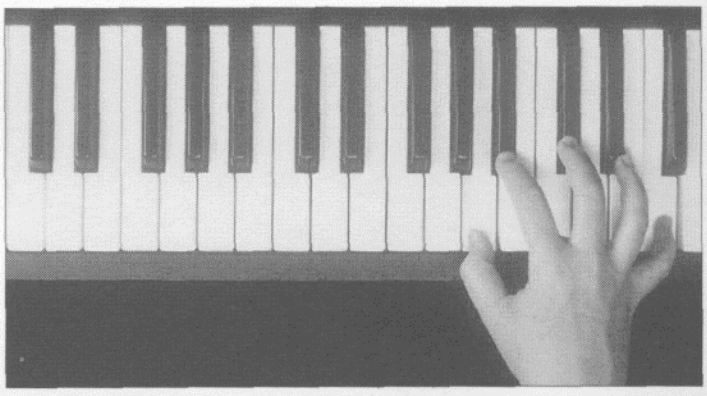


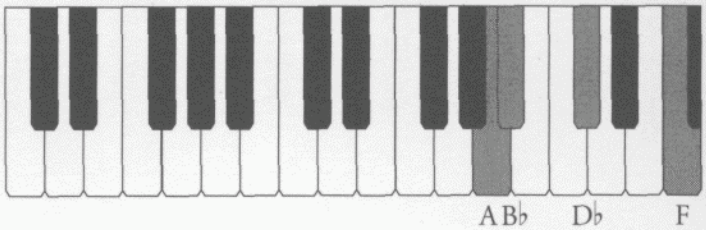
B♭ minor (major7) *second inversion*





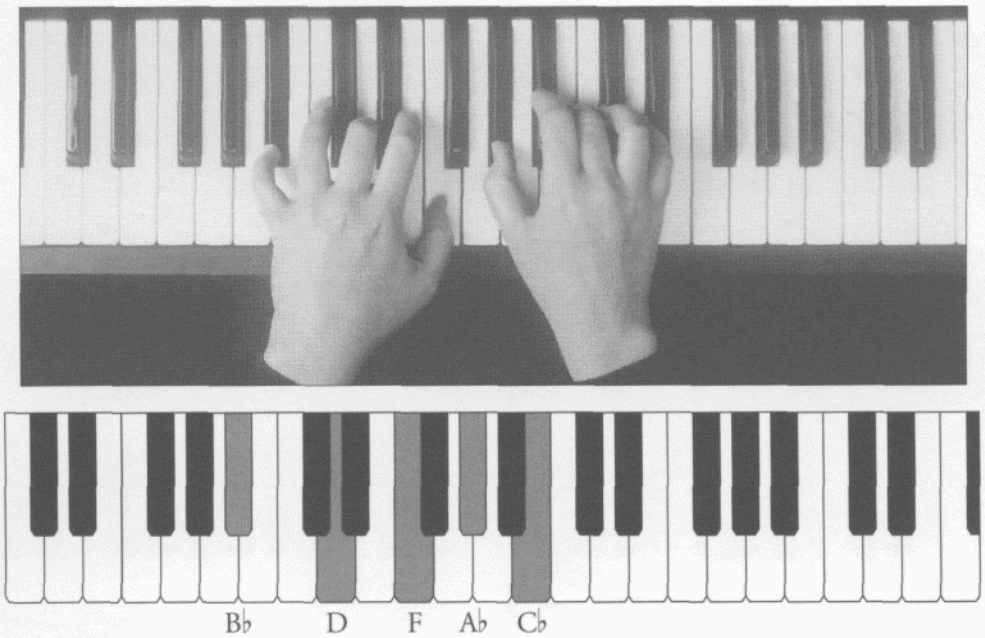
B♭ minor (major7) *third inversion*



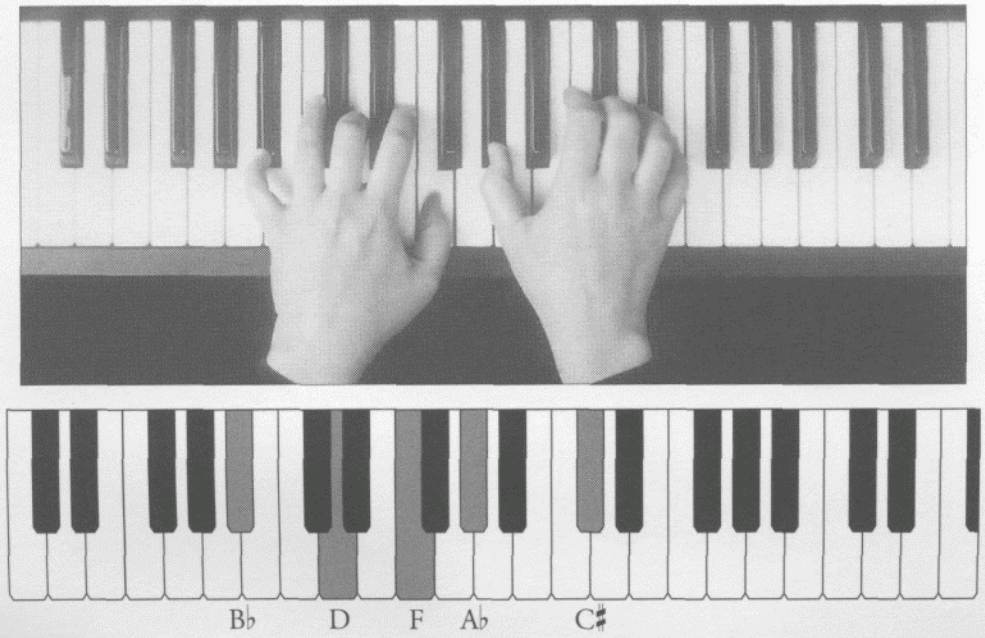


B♭ chords
using both hands

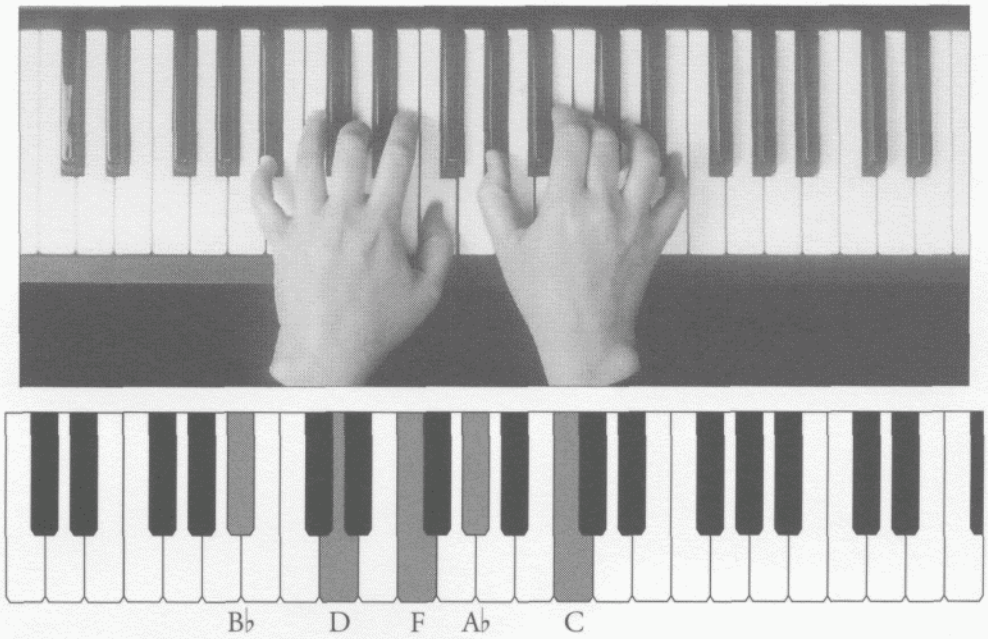
B♭7♭9



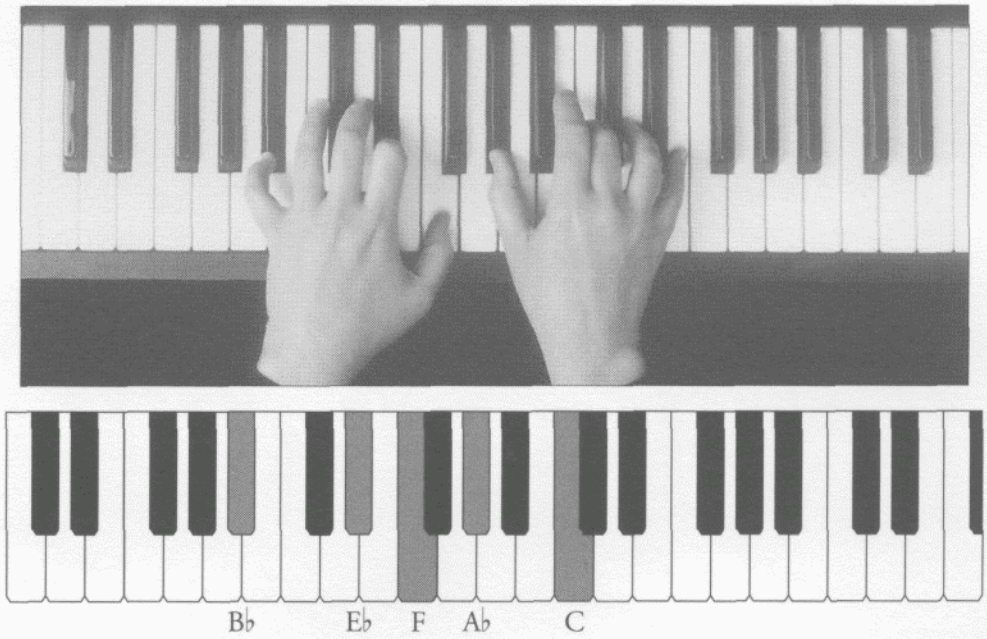
B♭7♯9



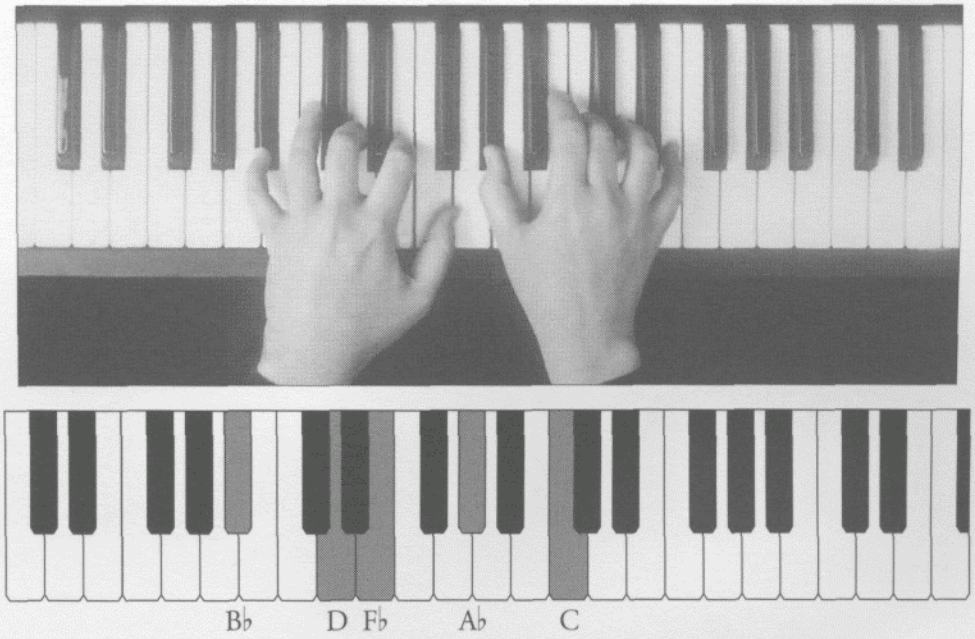
B♭9



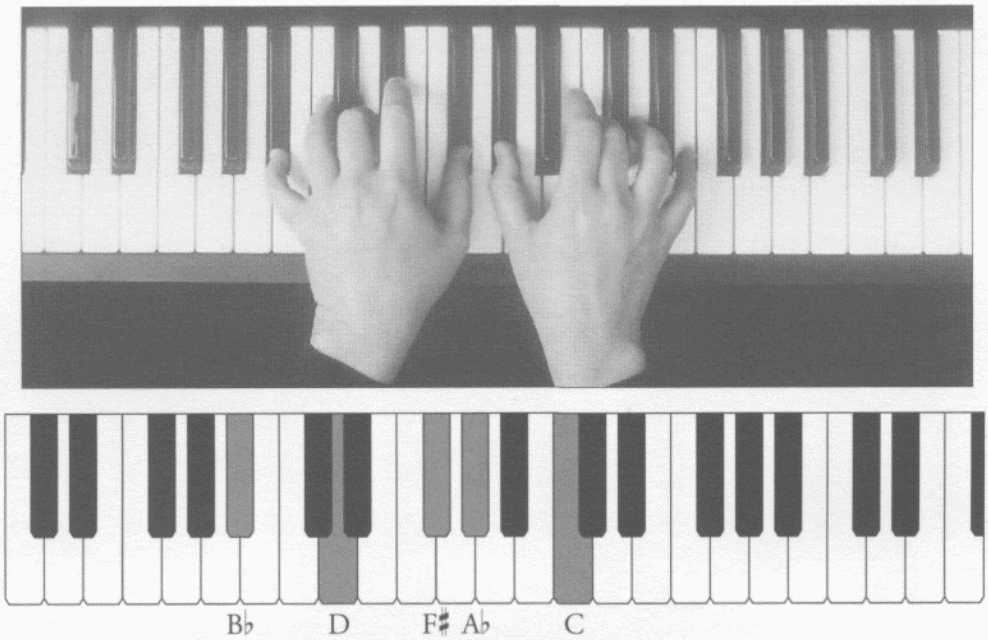
B♭9sus4



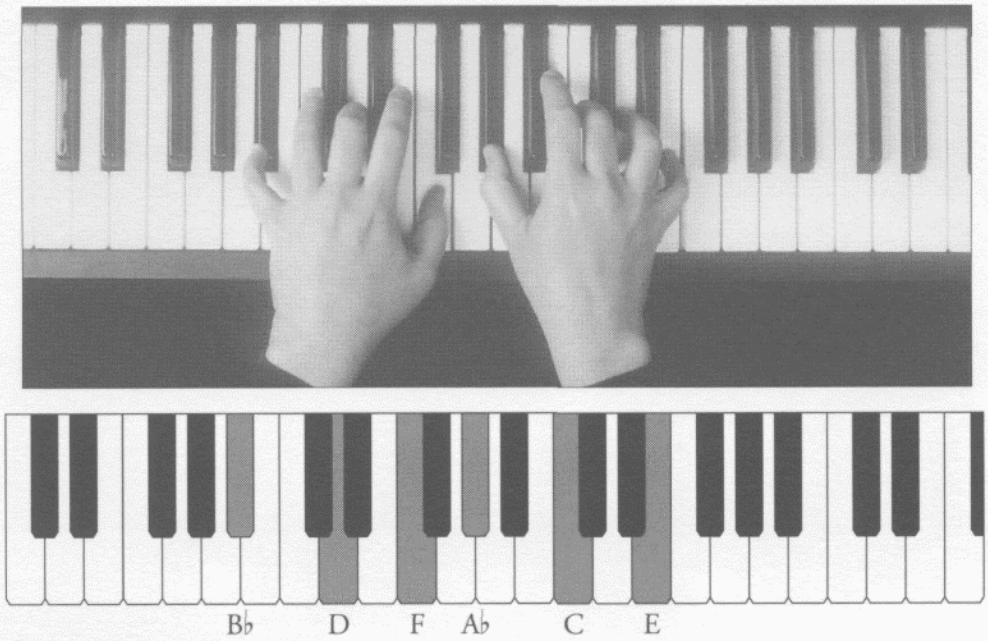
B♭9♭5



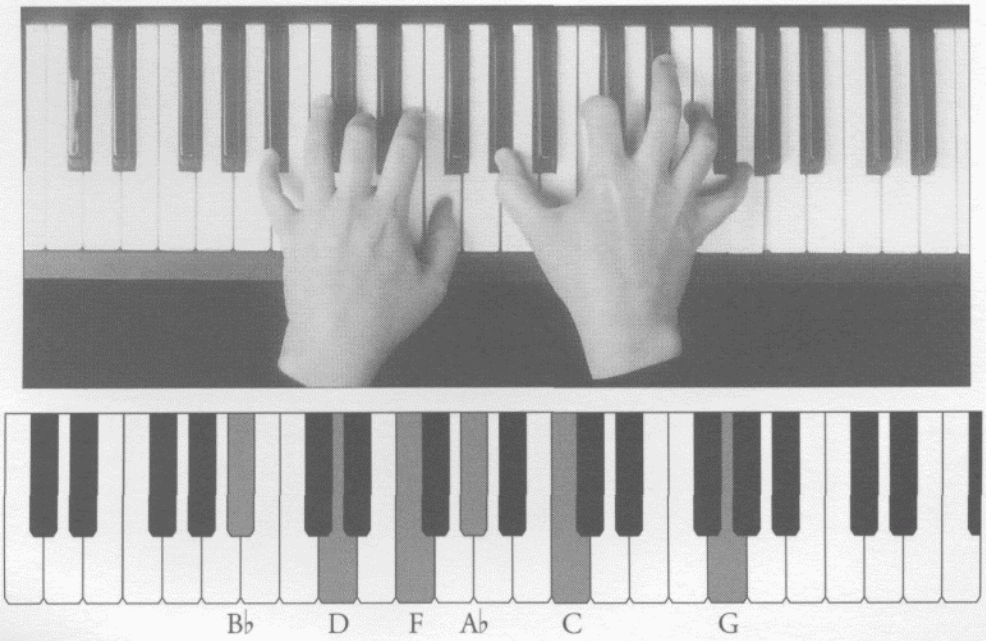
B♭9♯5



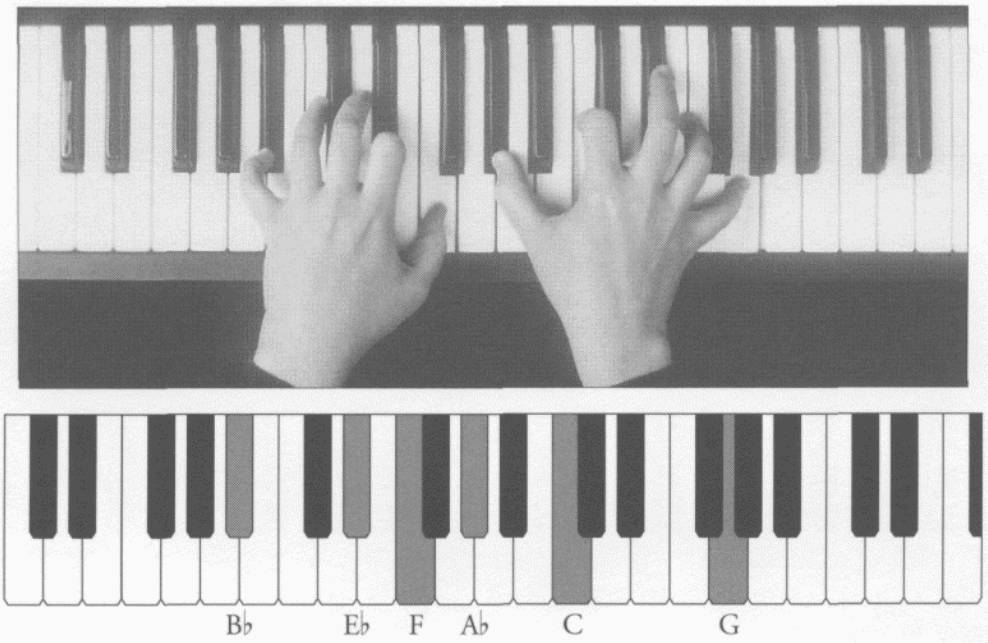
B♭9♯11



B♭13



B♭13sus4



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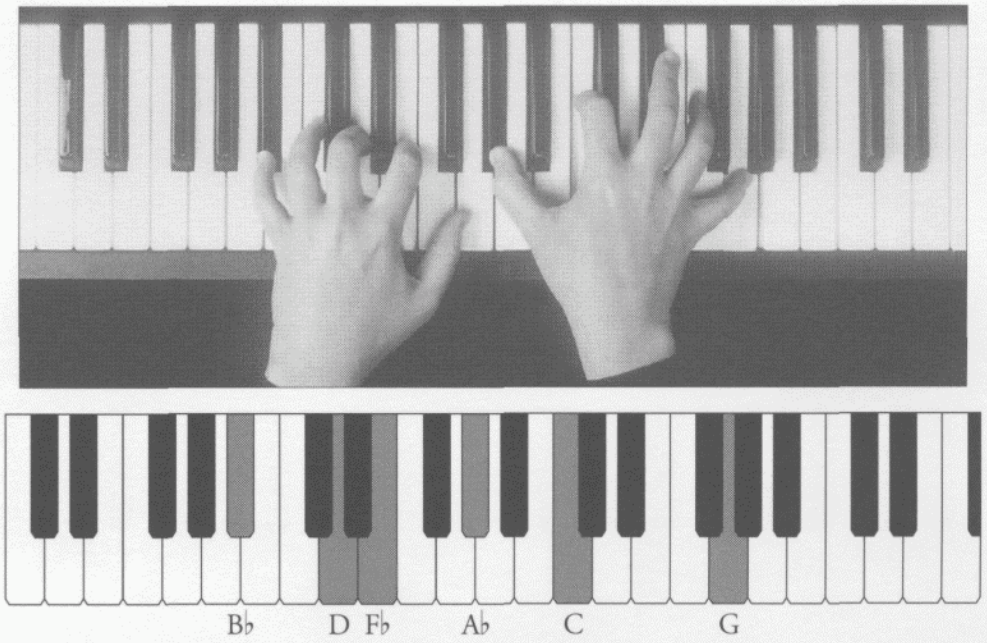

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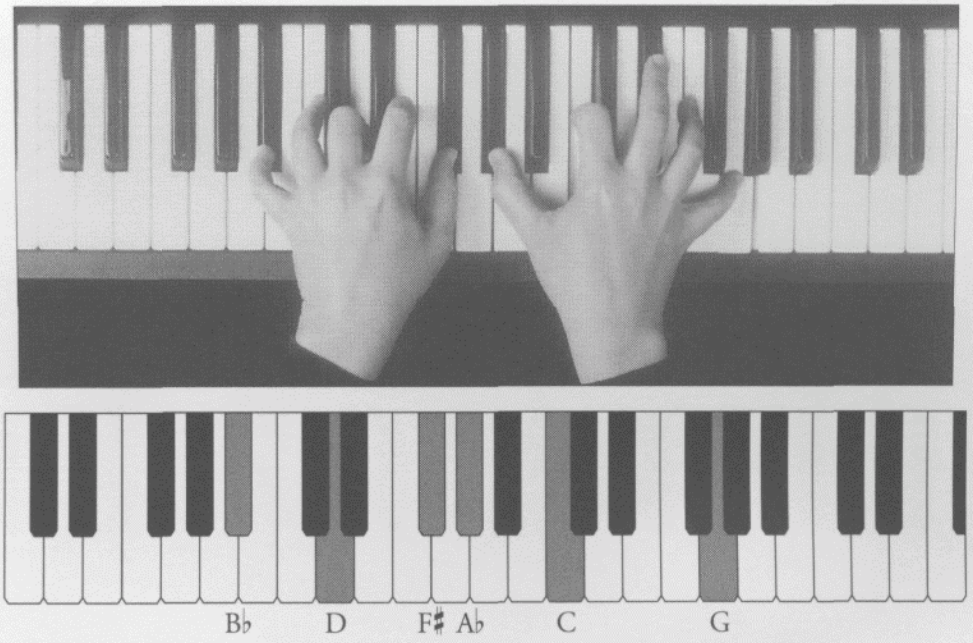
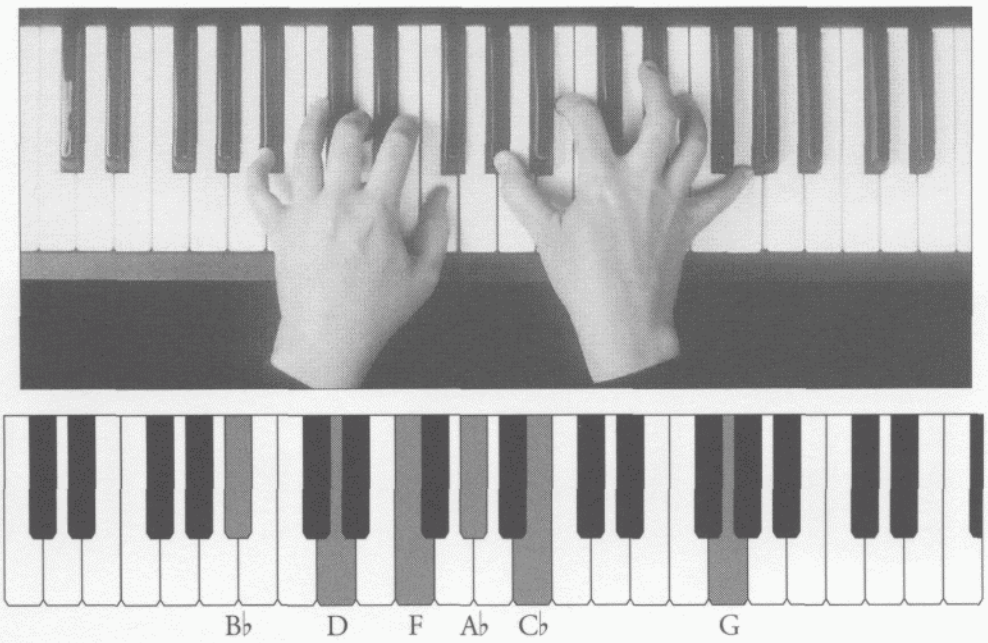
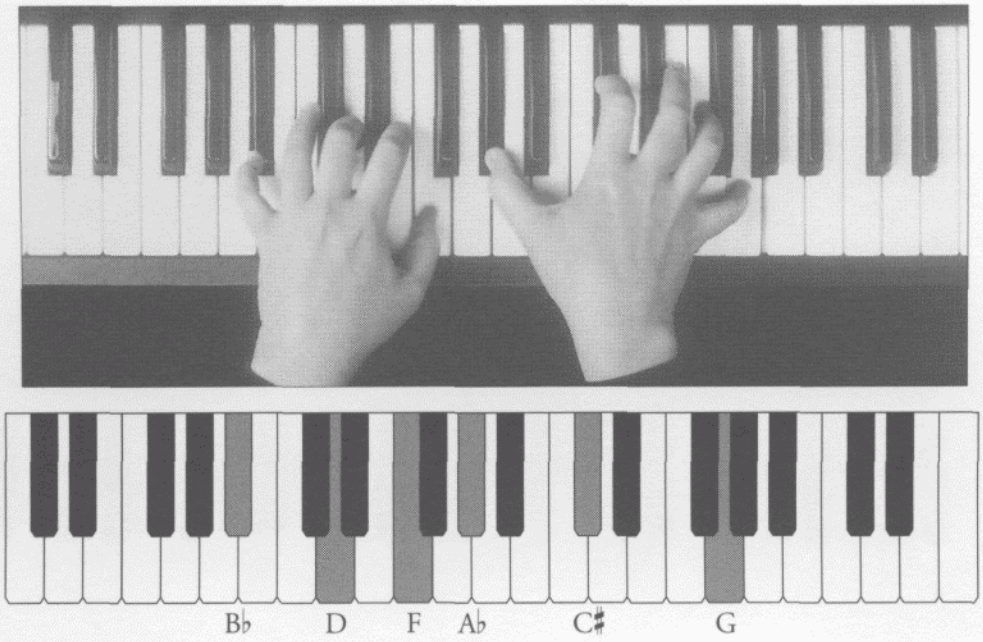


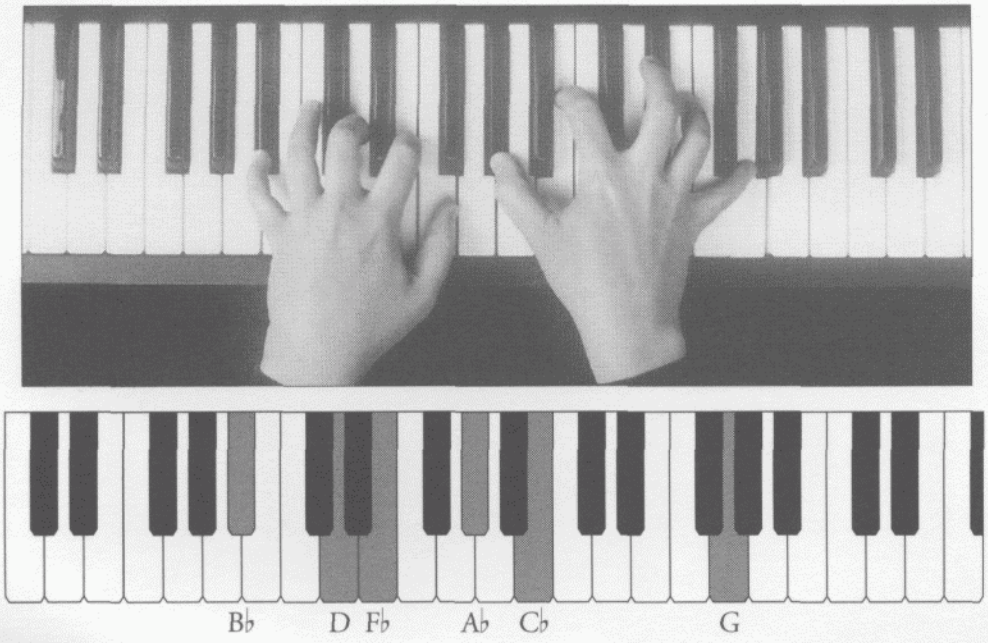
B♭13♭9



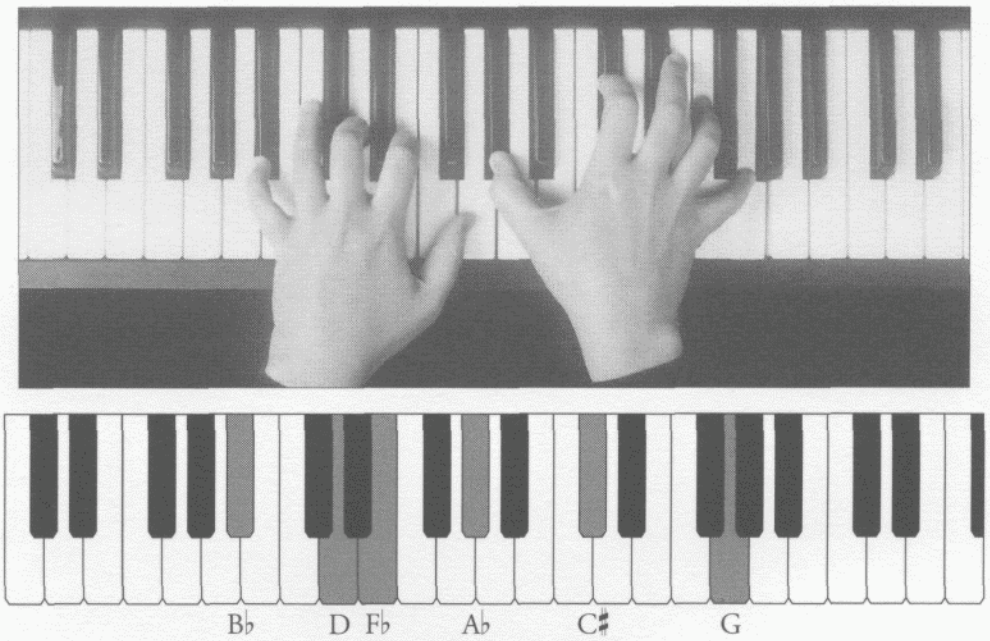
B♭13♯9



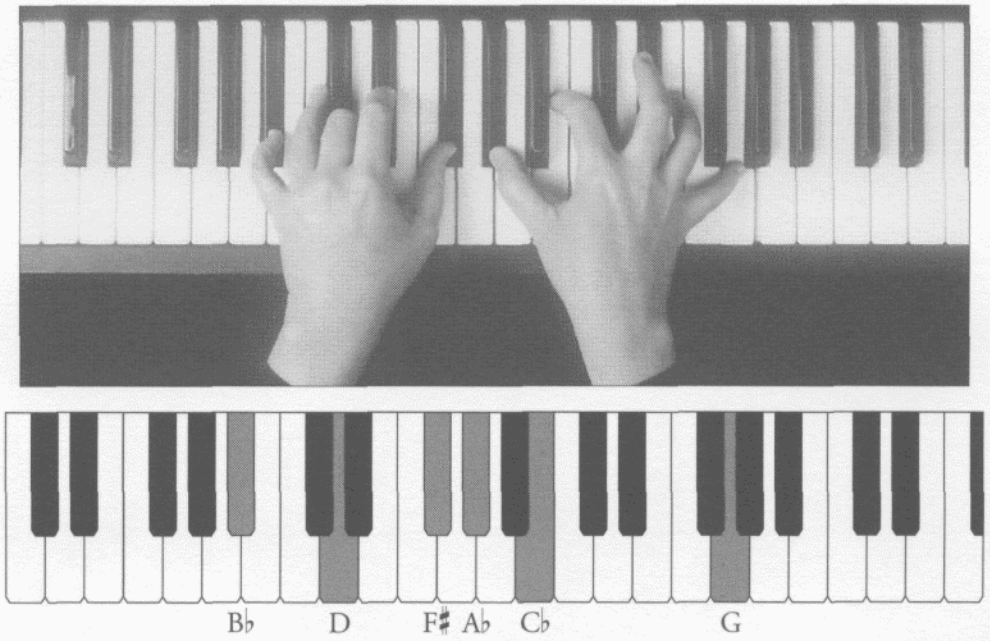
B♭13♭5♭9



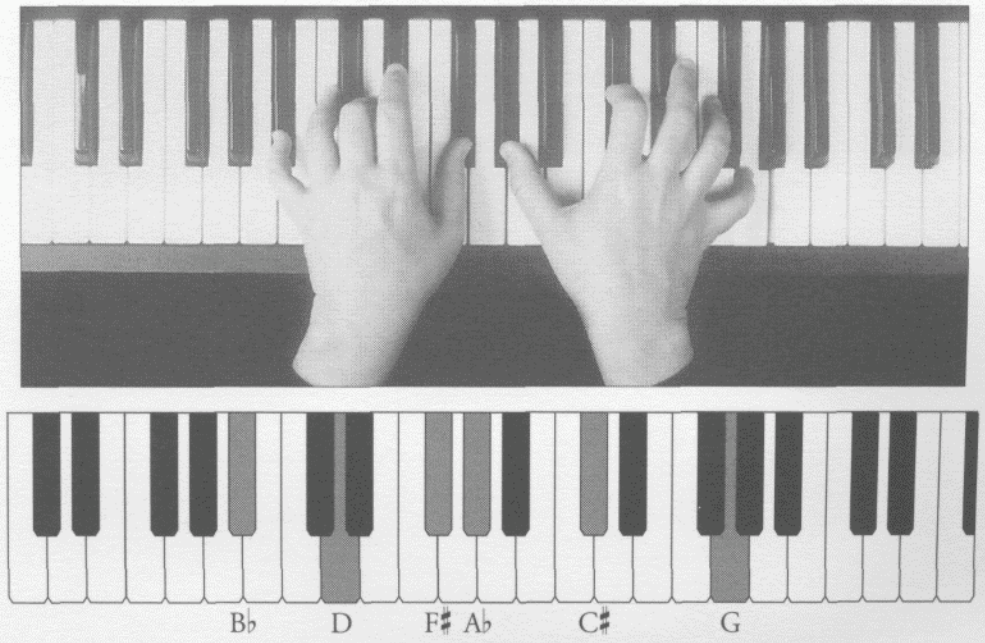
B♭13♭5♯9



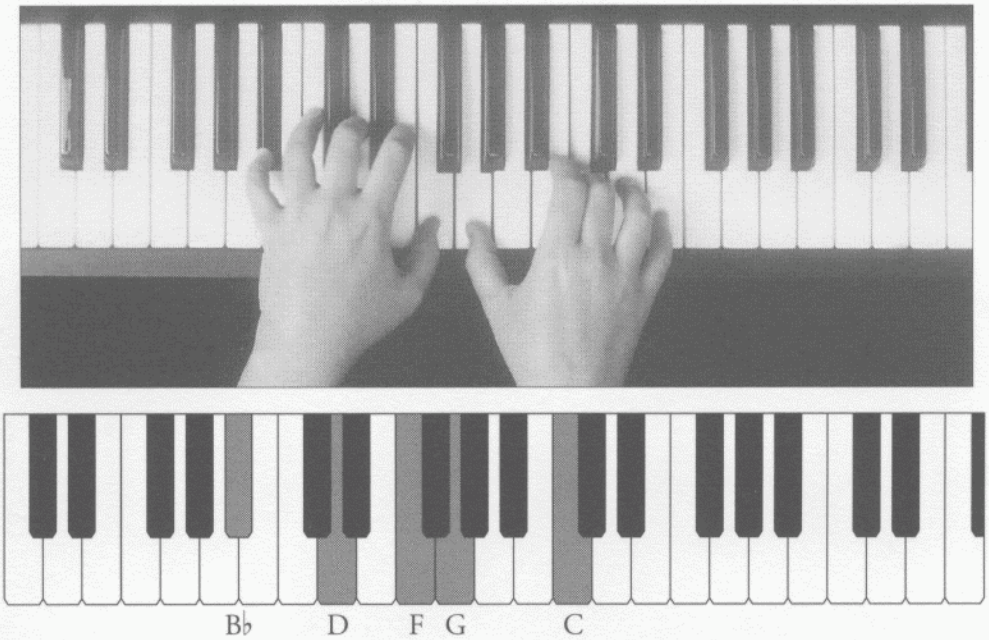
B♭13♯5♭9



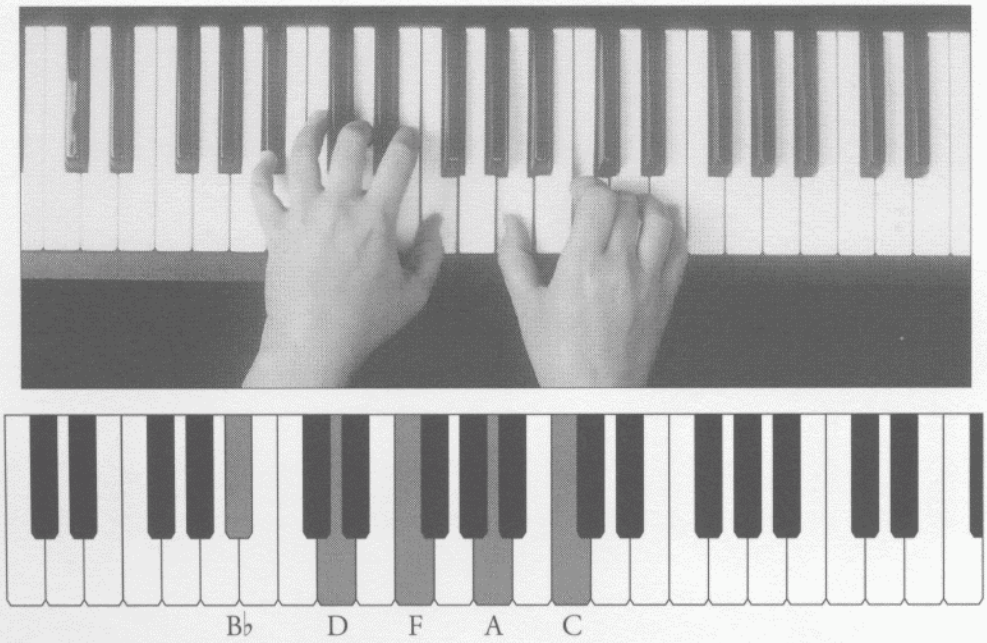
B♭13♯5♯9



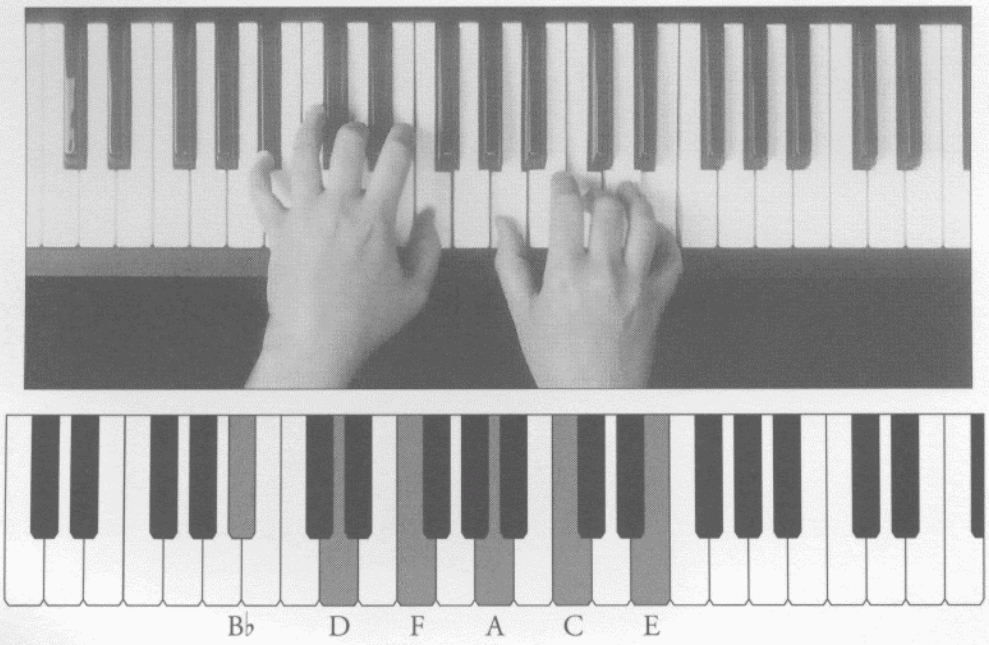
B♭ 6/9



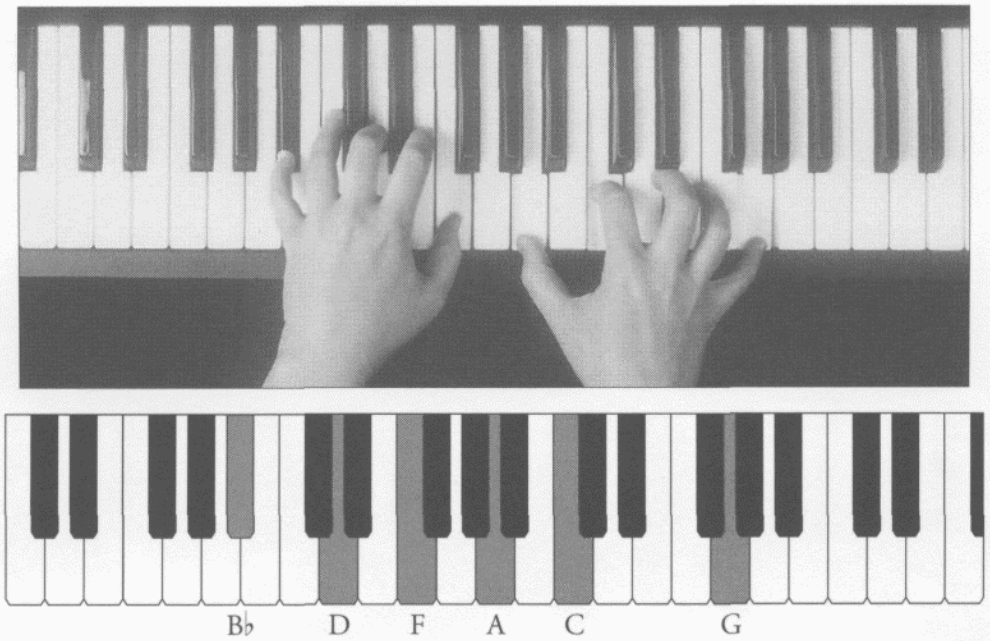
B♭ major9



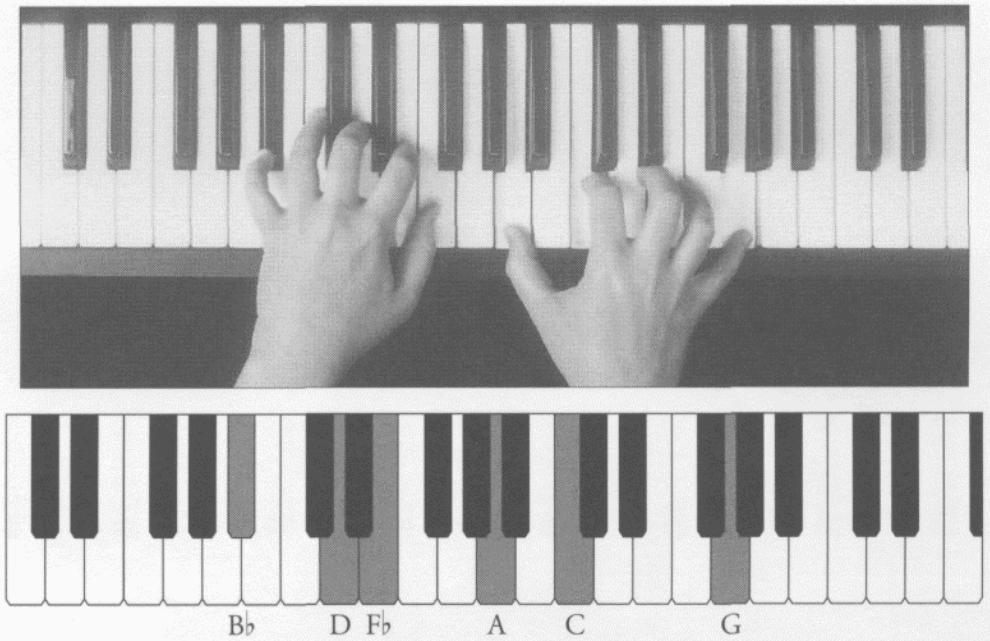
B♭ major9♯11



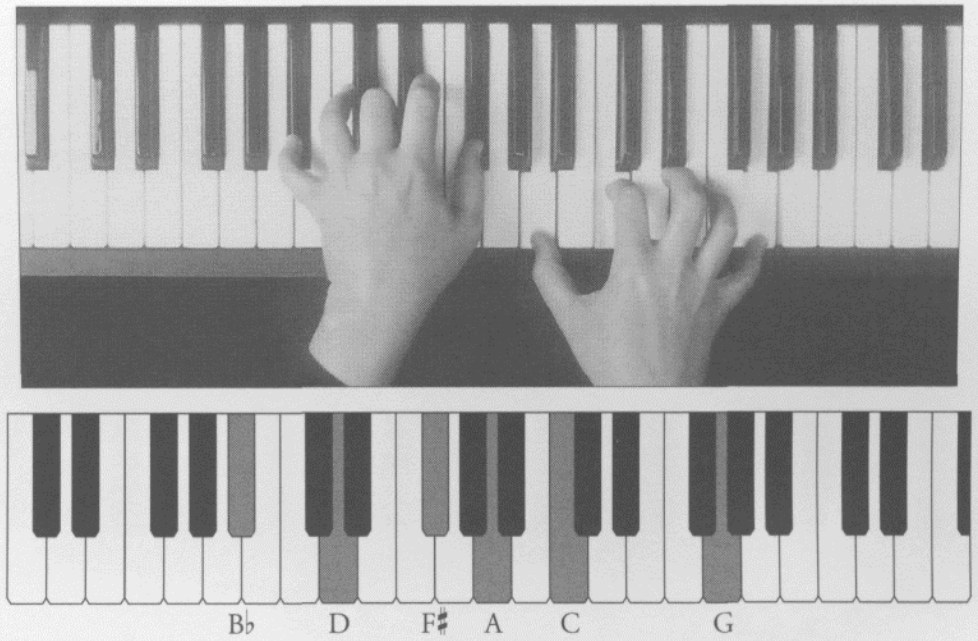
B♭ major13



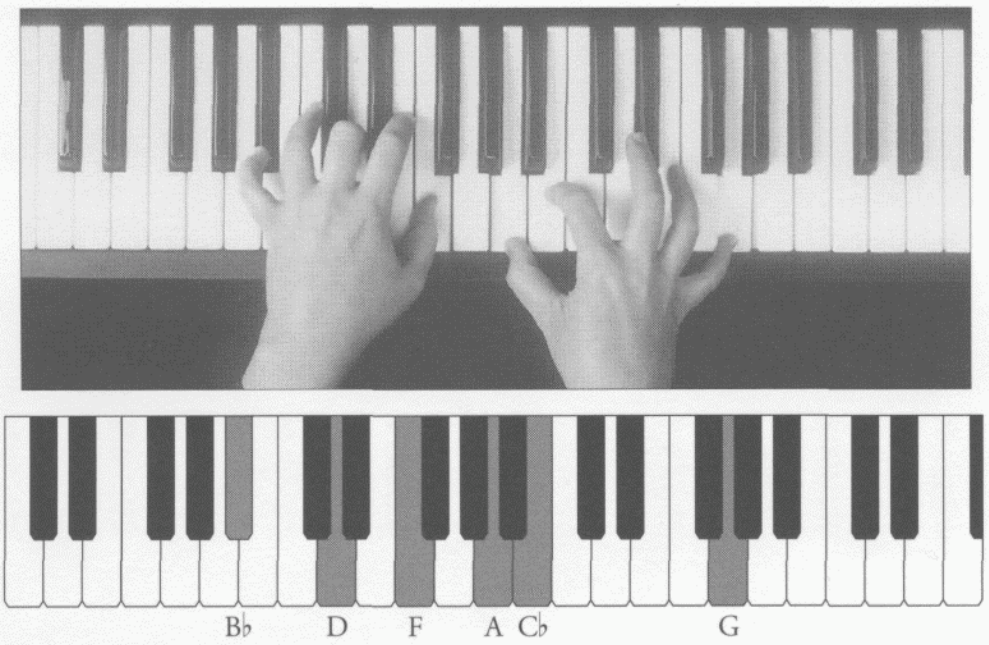
B♭ major13♭5



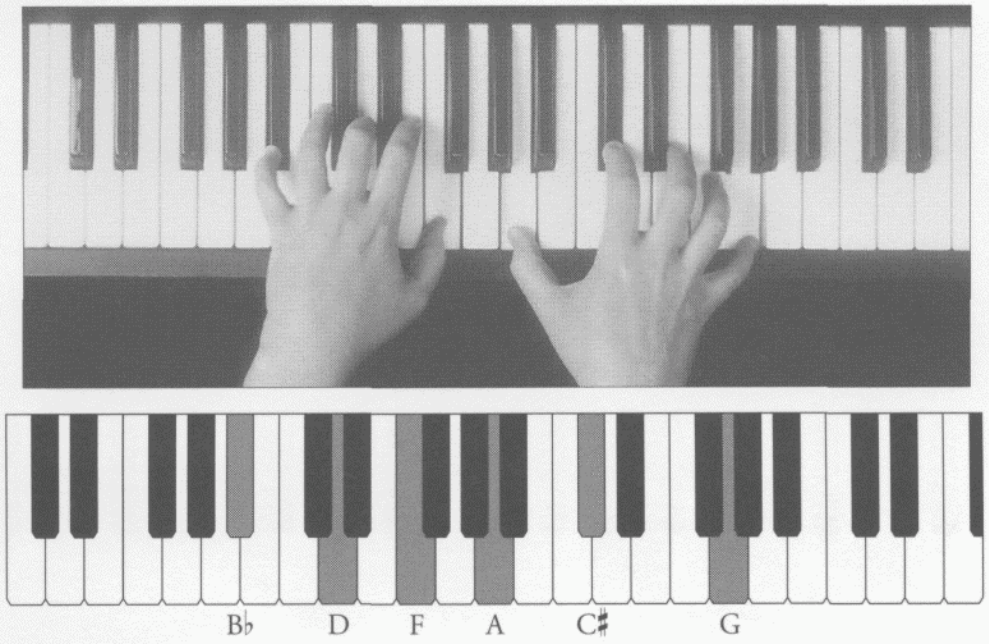
B♭ major13♯5



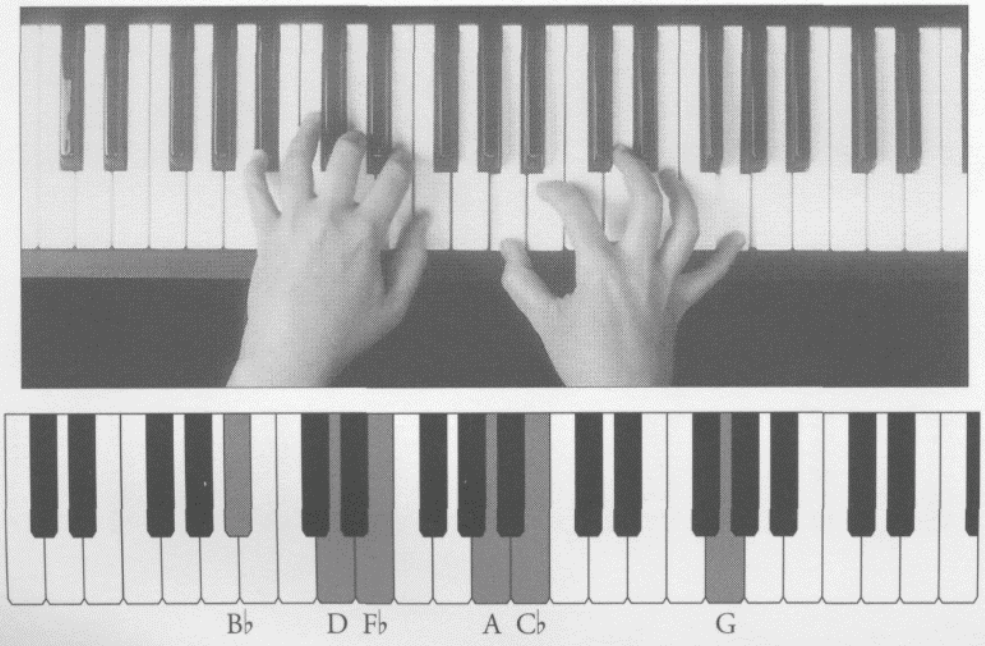
B♭ major13♭9



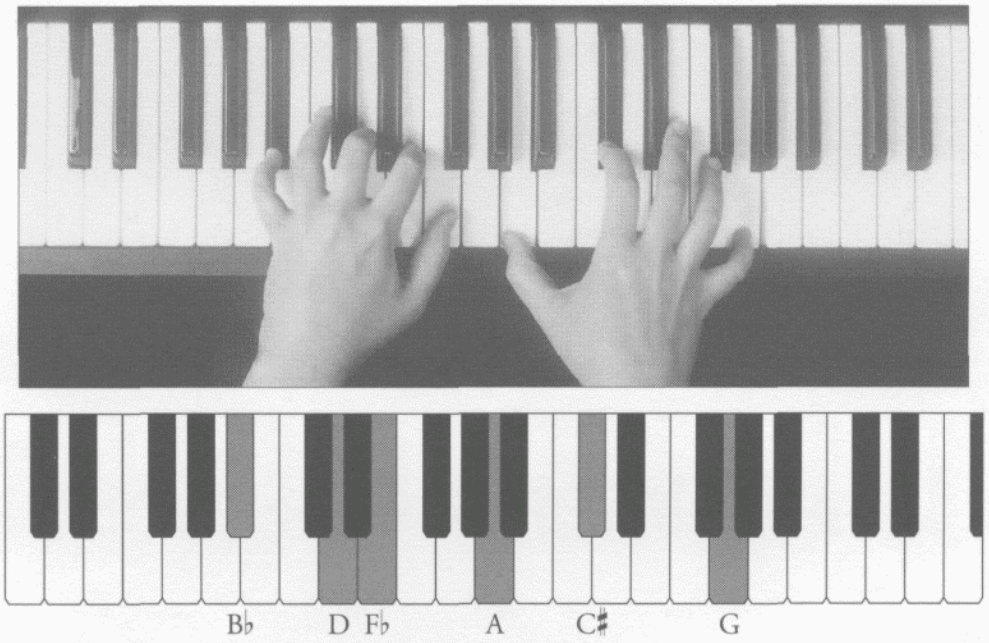
B♭ major13♯9



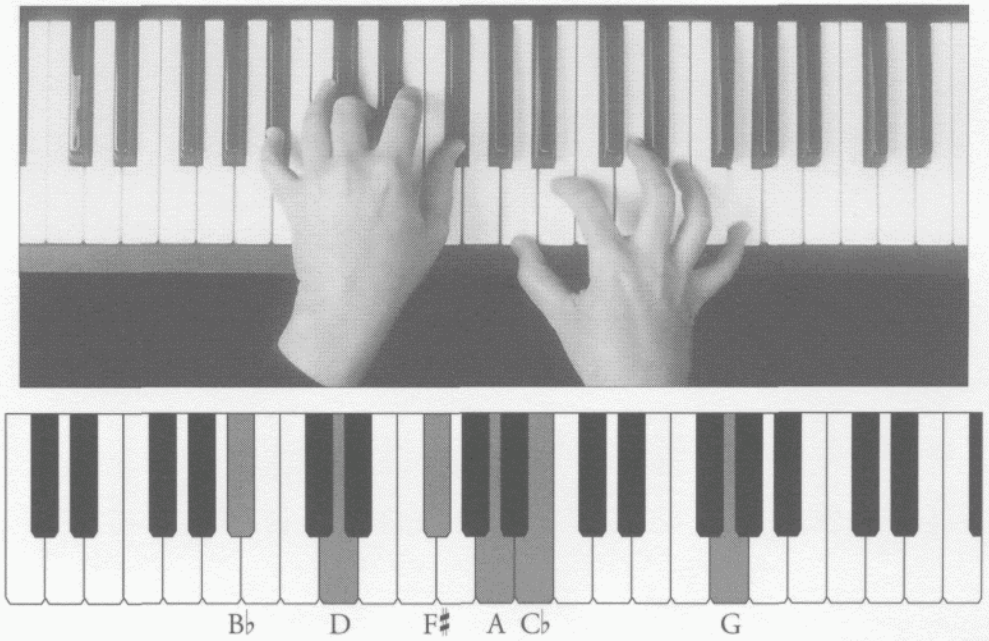
B♭ major13♭5♭9



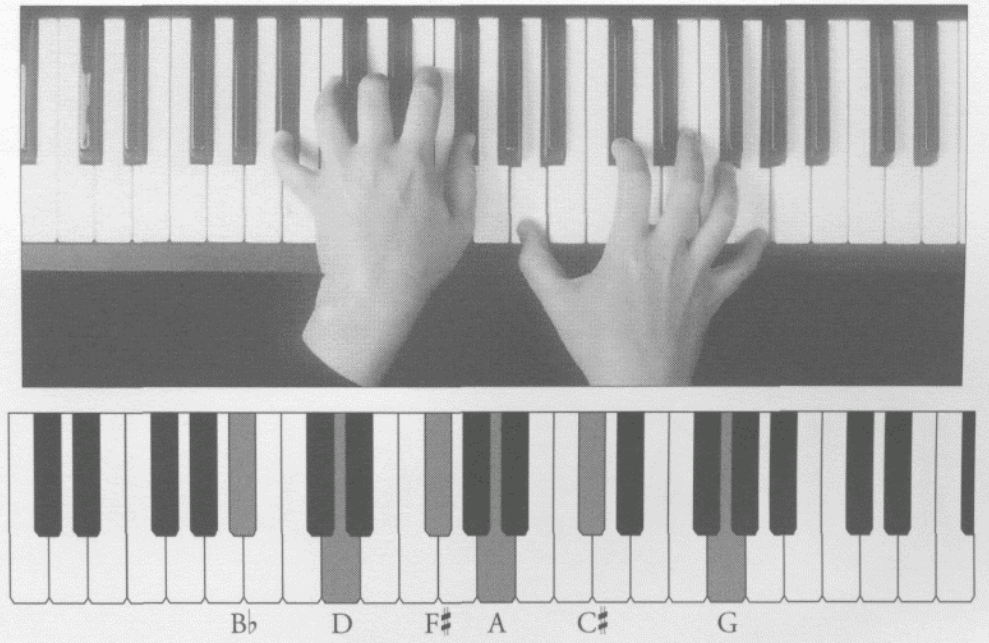
B♭ major13♭5♯9



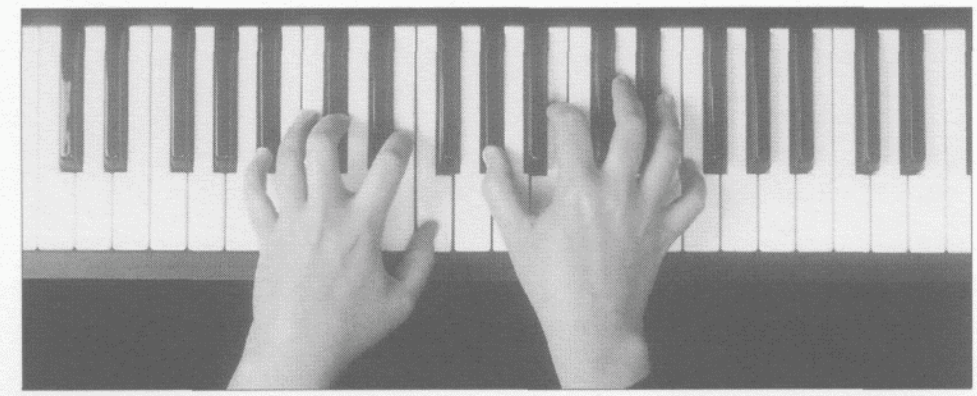
B♭ major13♯5♭9

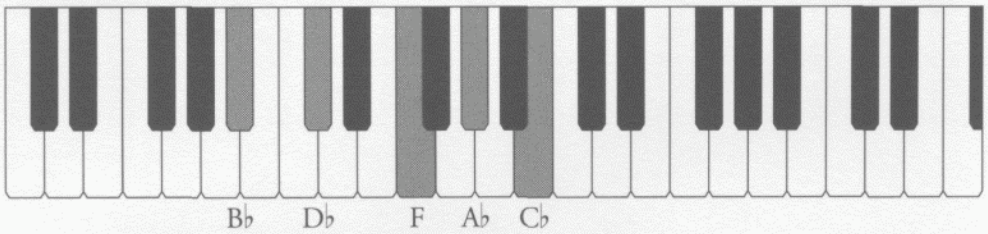


B♭ major13♯5♯9

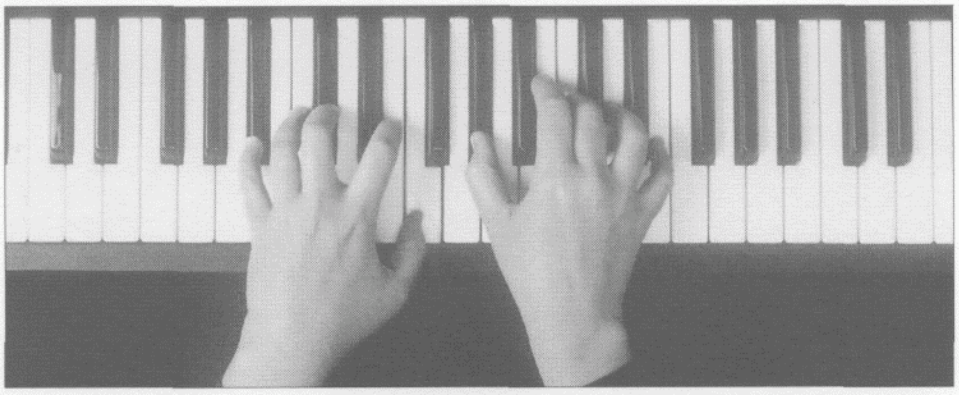


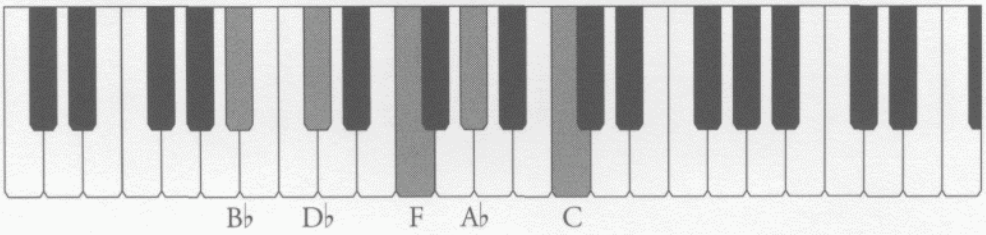
B♭ minor7♭9



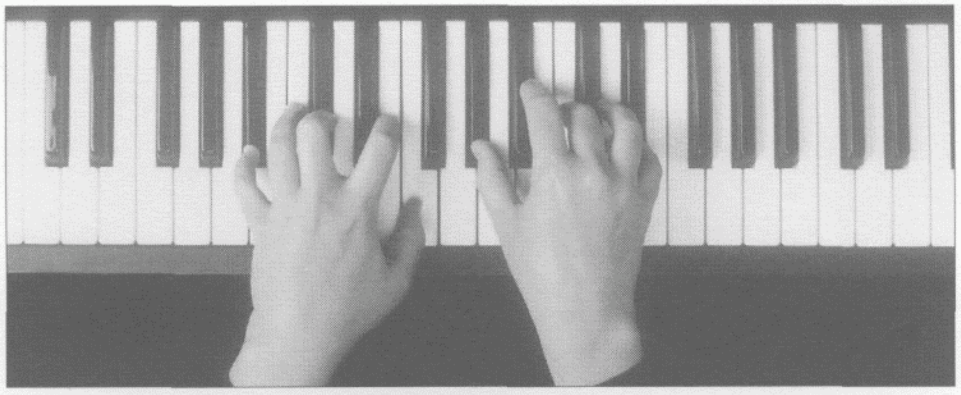


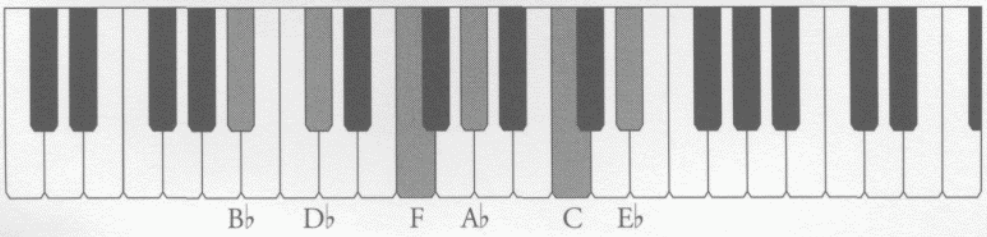
B♭ minor9



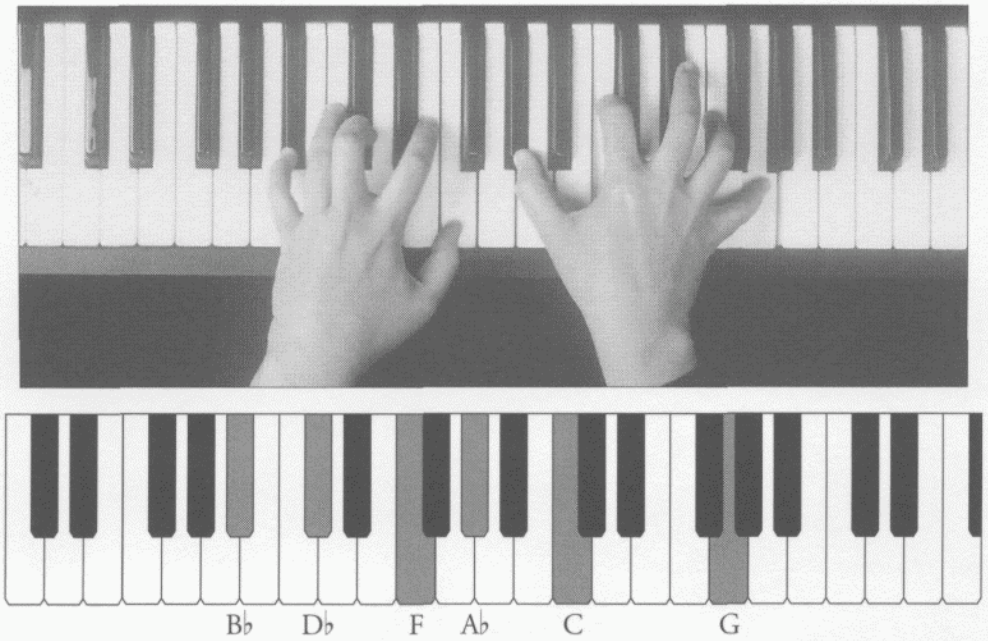


B♭ minor11

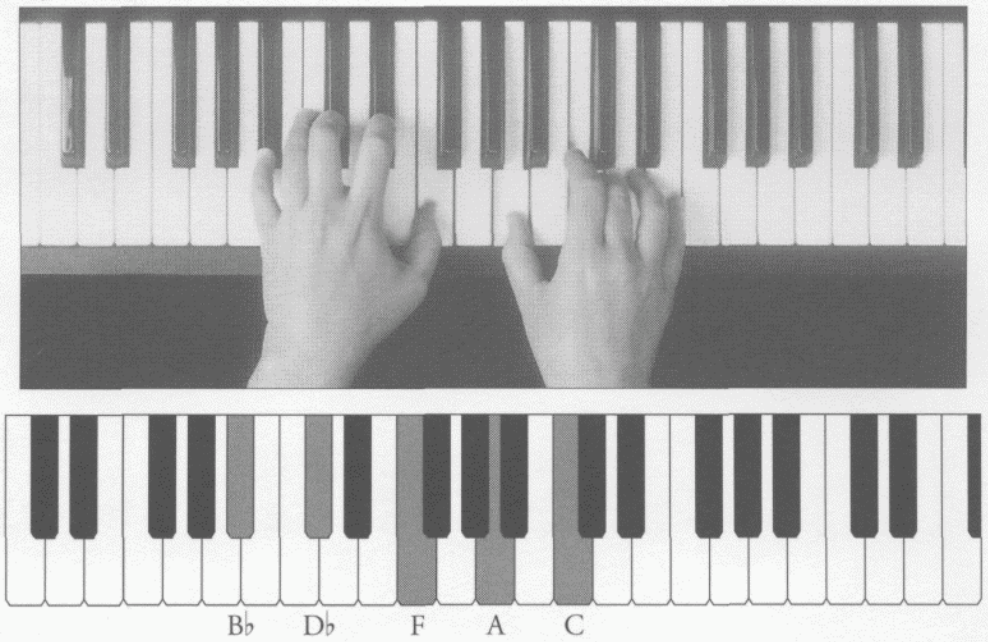




B♭ minor13

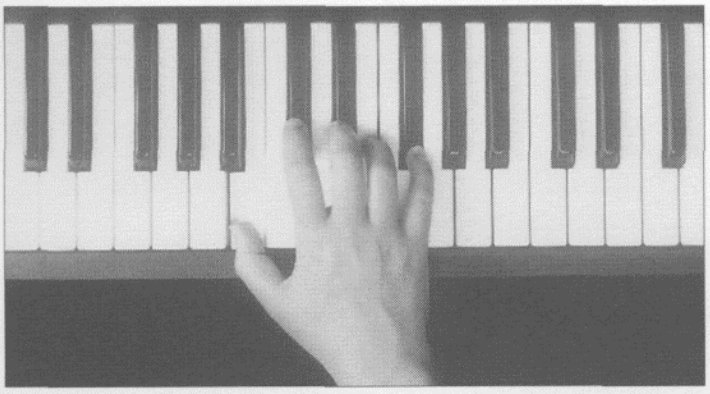


B♭ minor9 (major7)

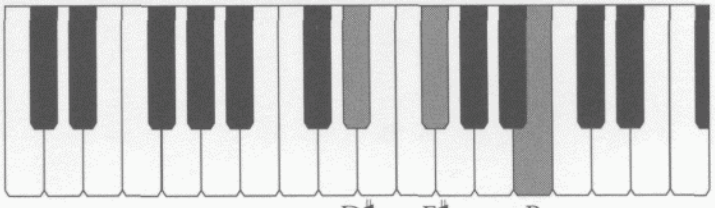


B chords

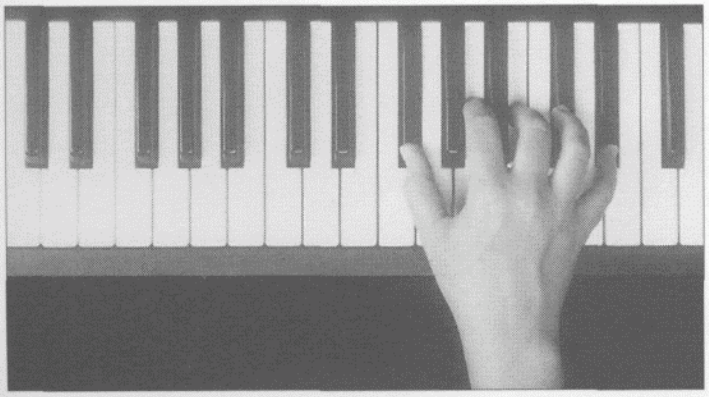
B major

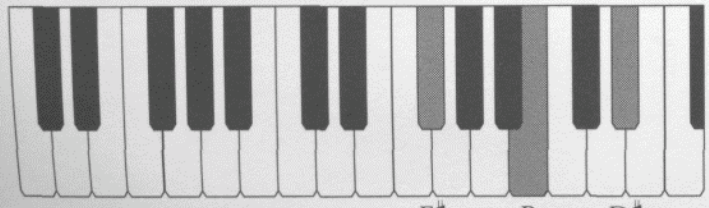


B/D♯ *first inversion*

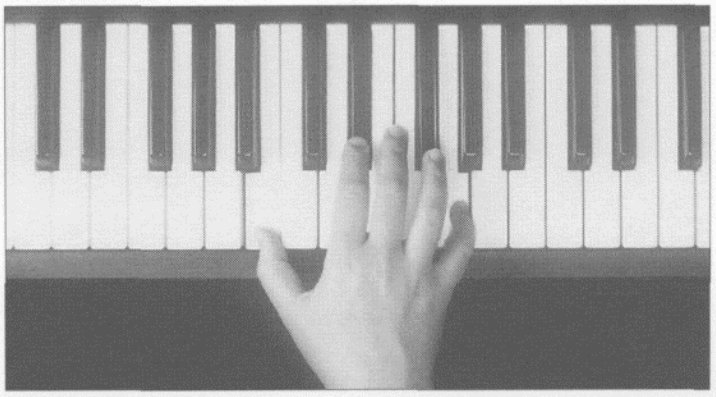


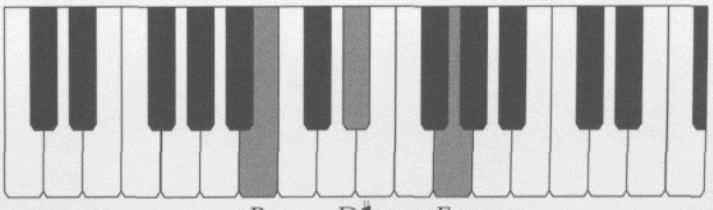
B/F♯ *second inversion*



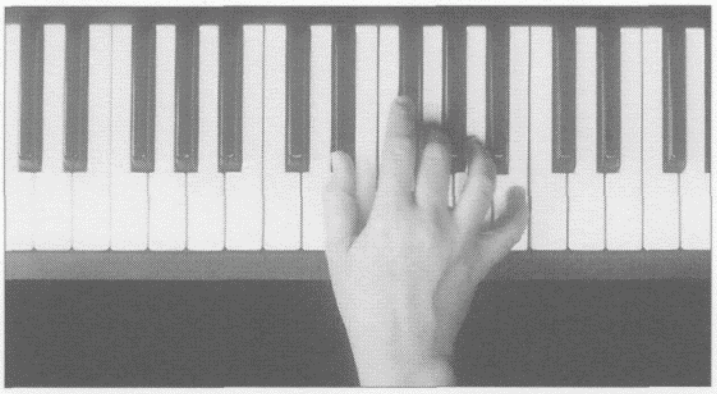


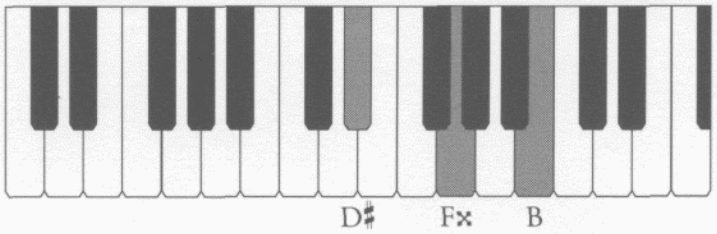
B augmented



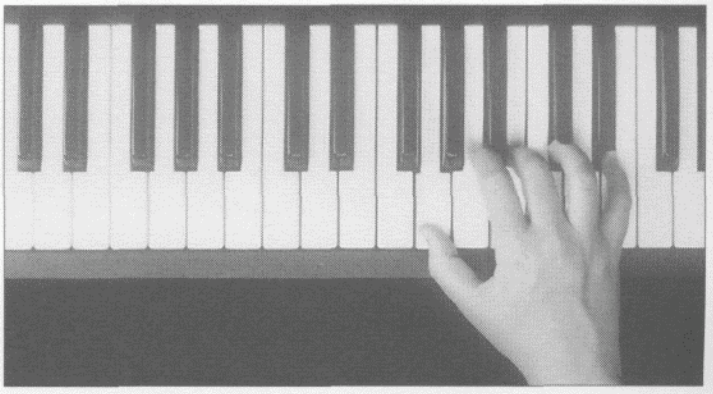


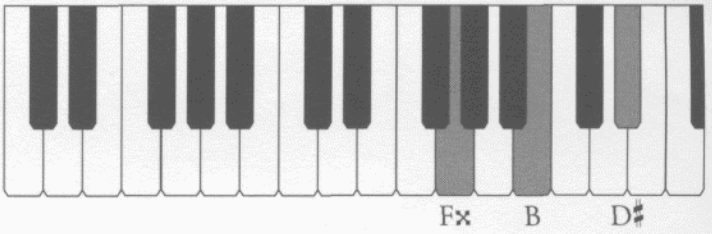
B augmented *first inversion*



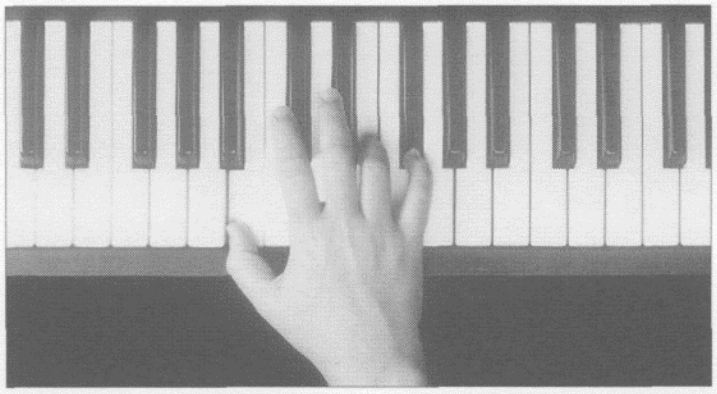


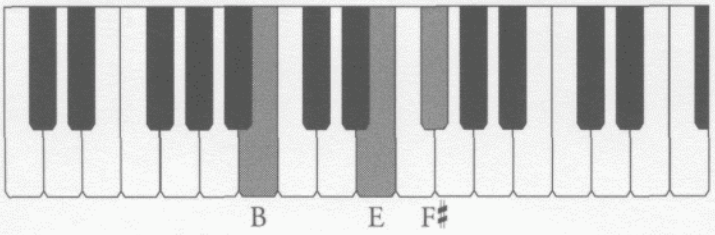
B augmented *second inversion*



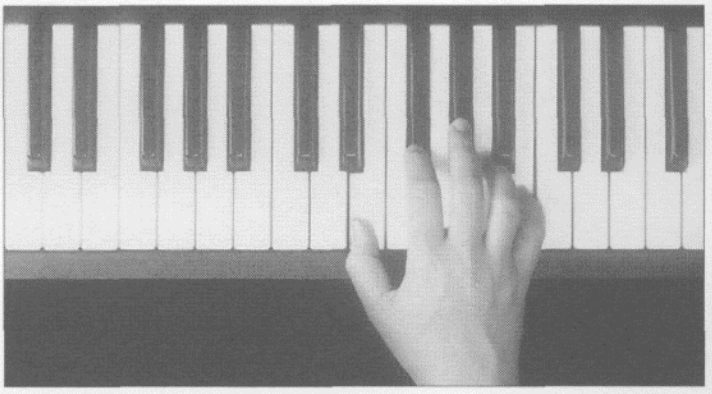


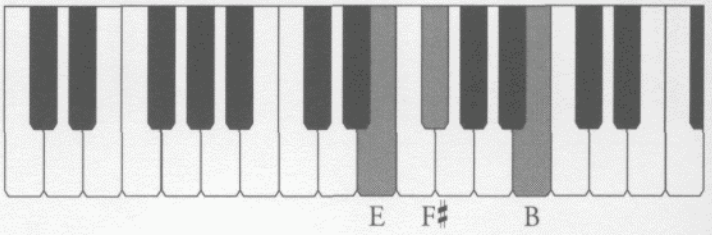
Bsus4



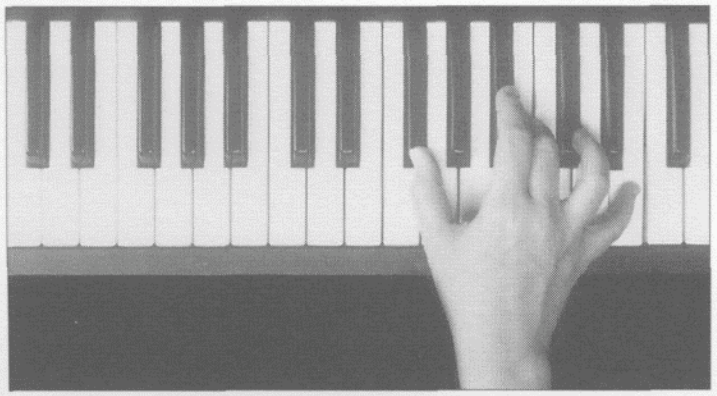


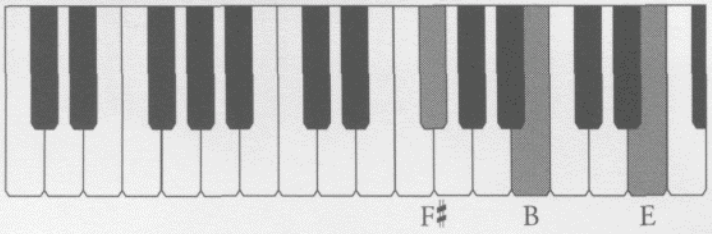
Bsus4 *first inversion*



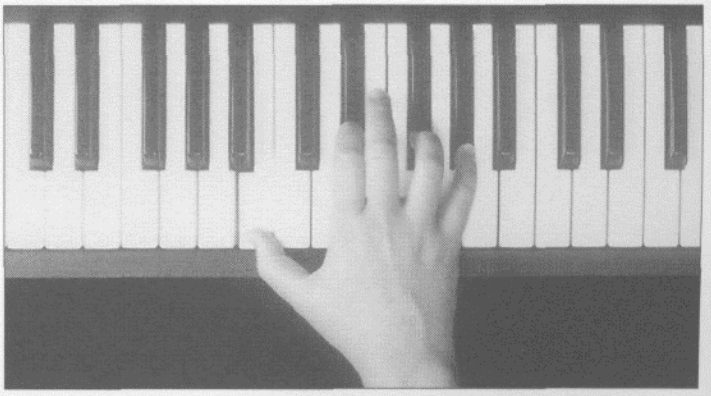


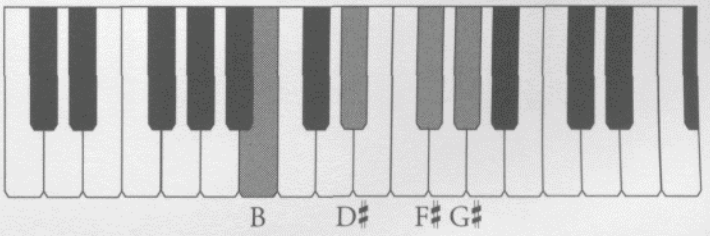
Bsus4 *second inversion*



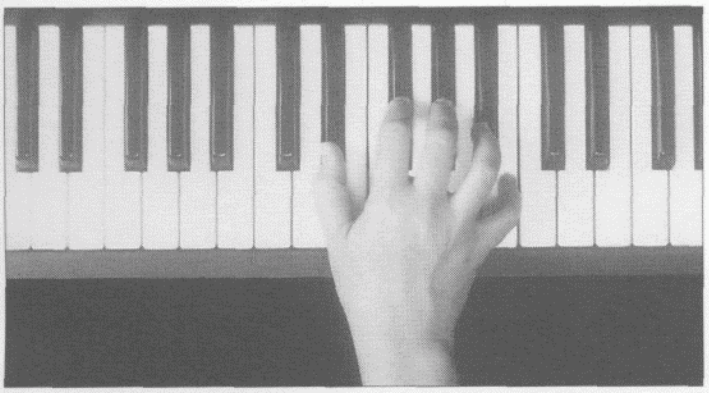


B6



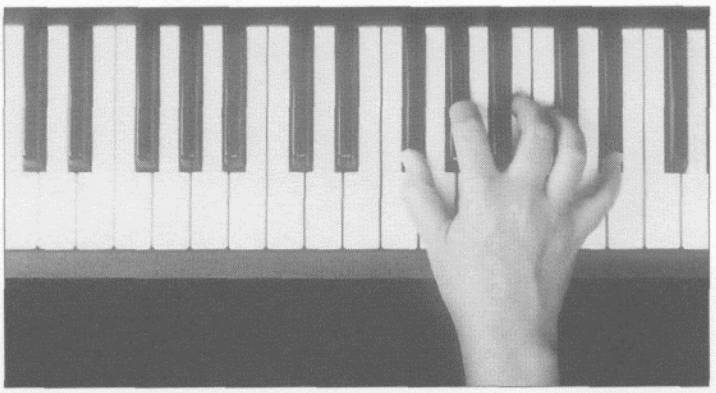


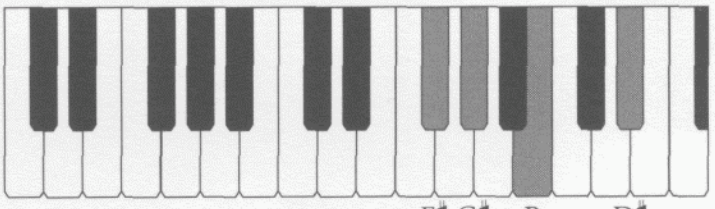
B6 *first inversion*



D♯ F♯ G♯ B

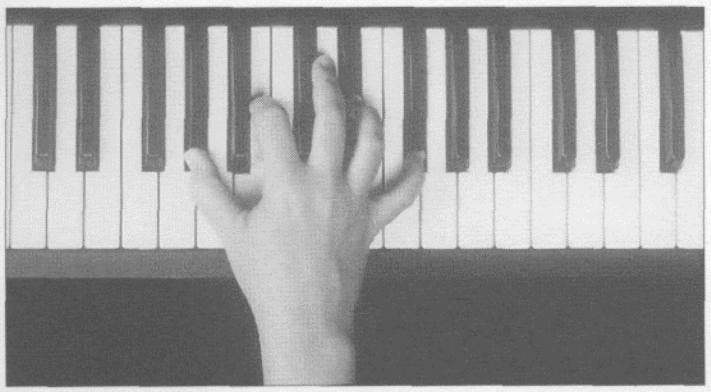
B6 *second inversion*





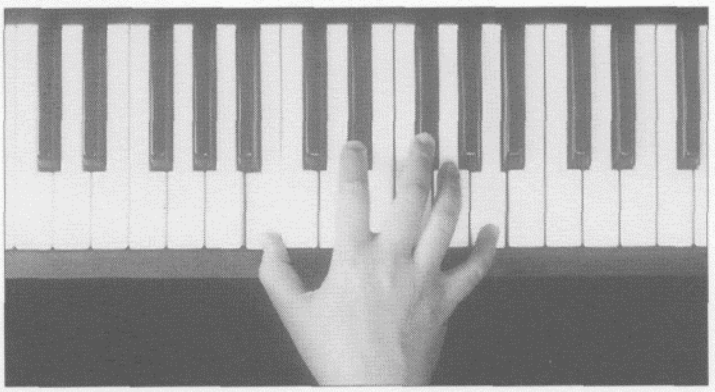
F♯ G♯ B D♯

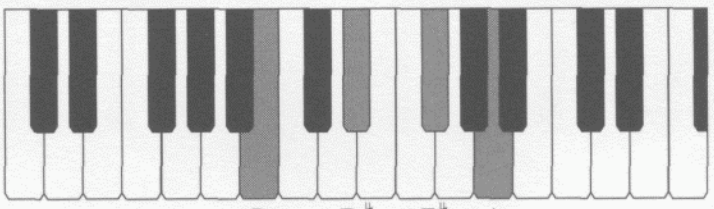
B6 *third inversion*



G♯ B D♯ F♯

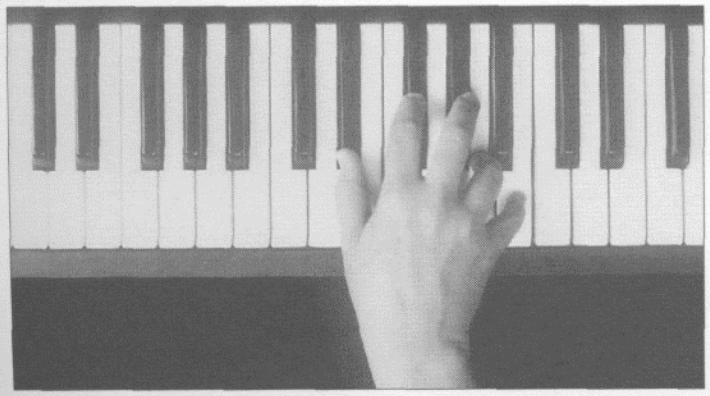
B7

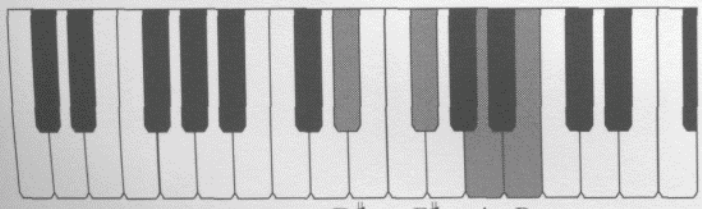




B D♯ F♯ A

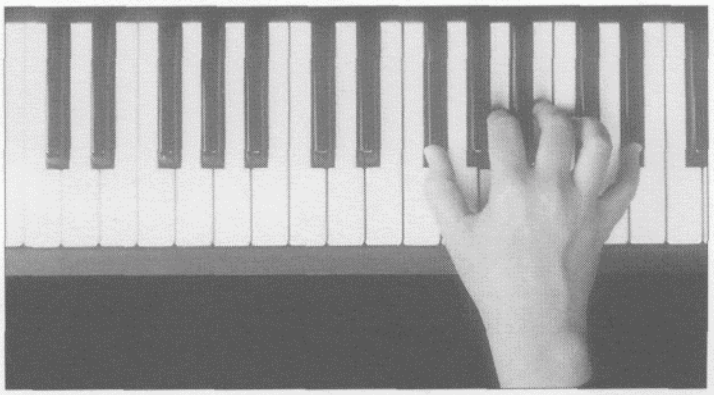
B7 *first inversion*

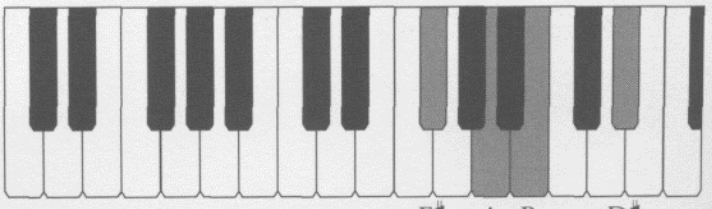




D♯ F♯ A B

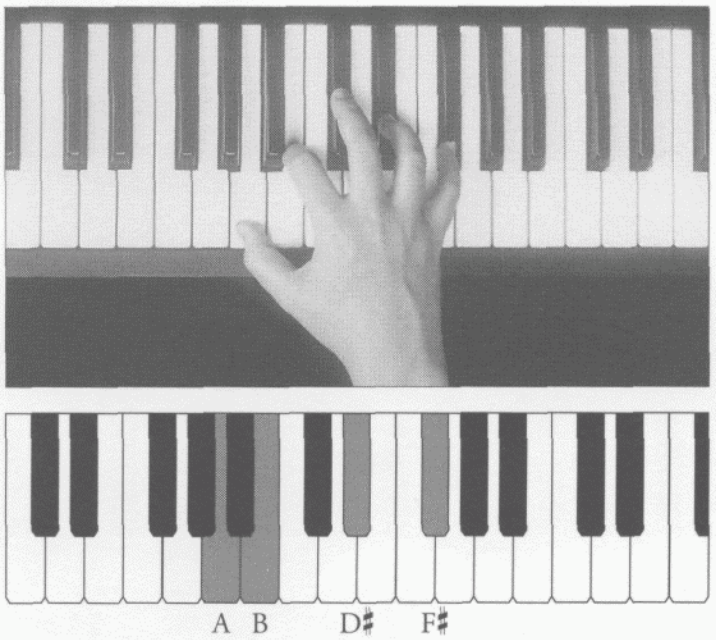
B7 *second inversion*



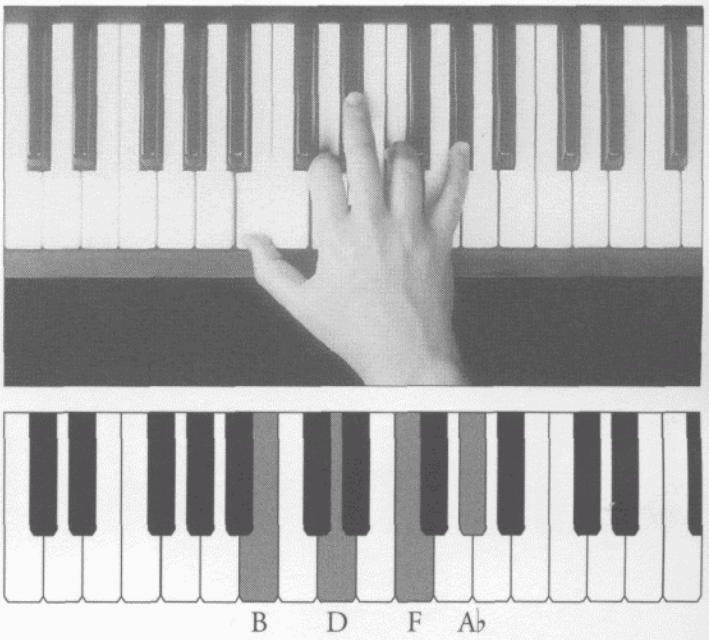


F♯ A B D♯

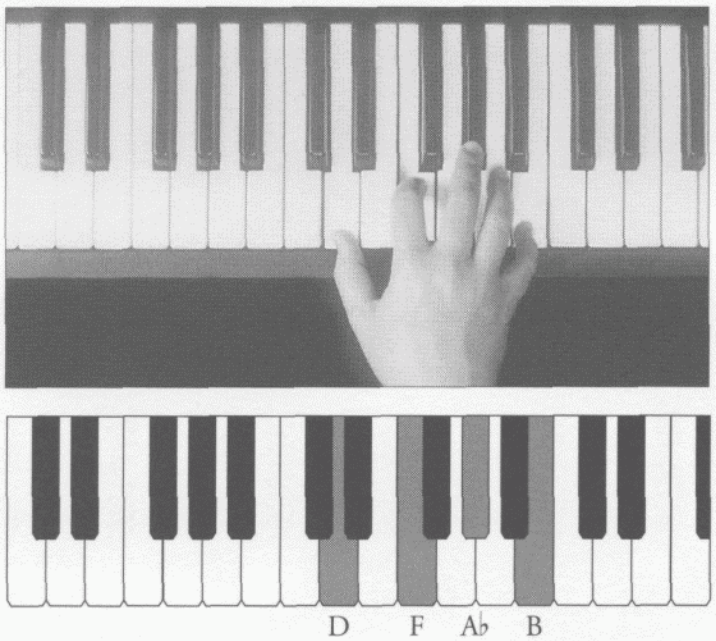
B7 *third inversion*



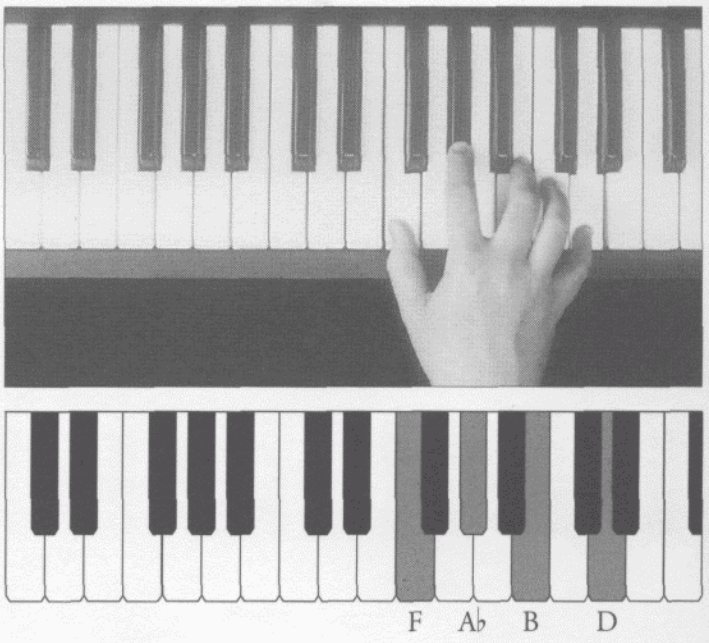
B°7



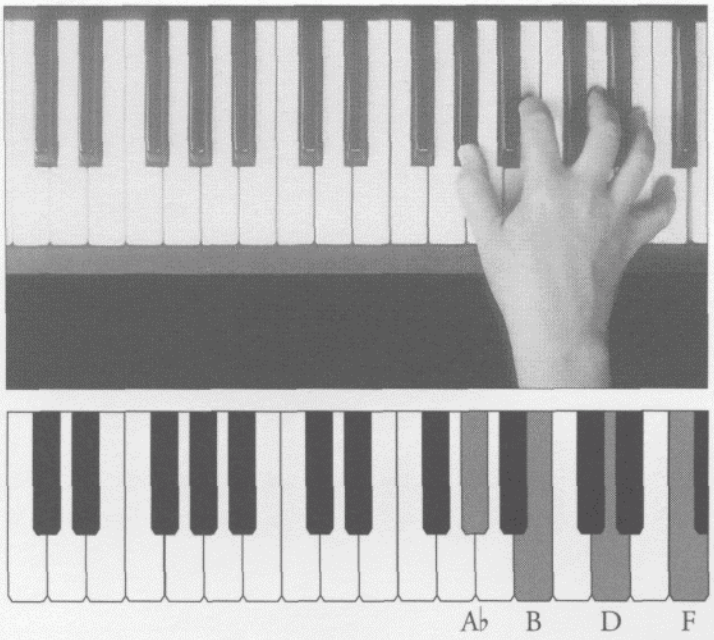
B°7 *first inversion*



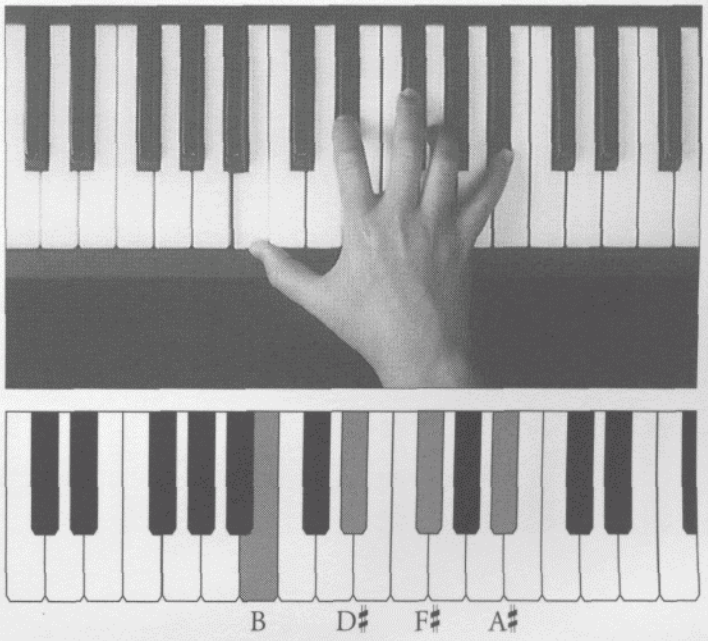
B°7 *second inversion*



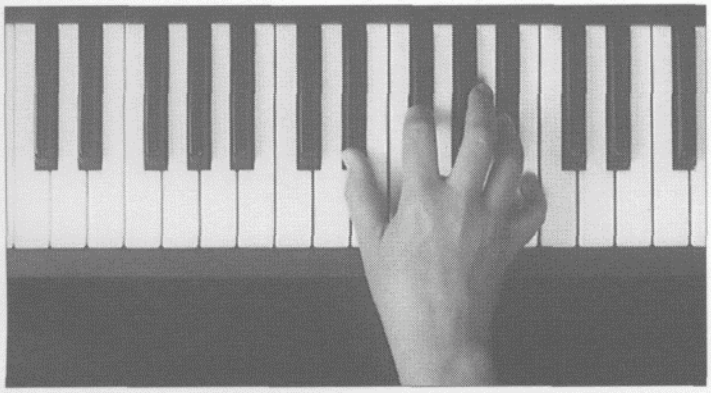
B°7 *third inversion*

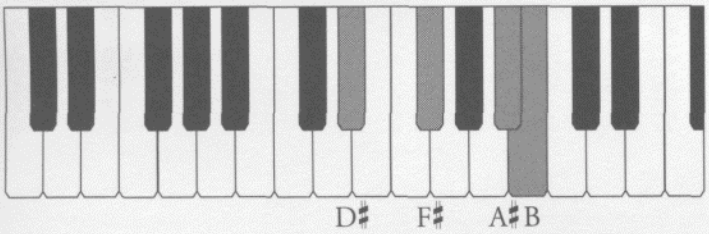


B major7

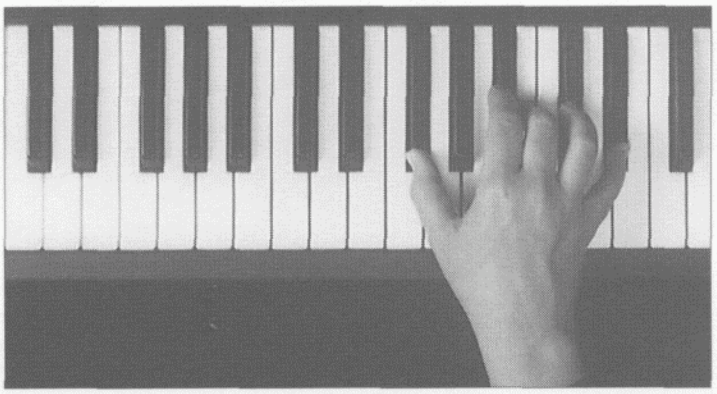


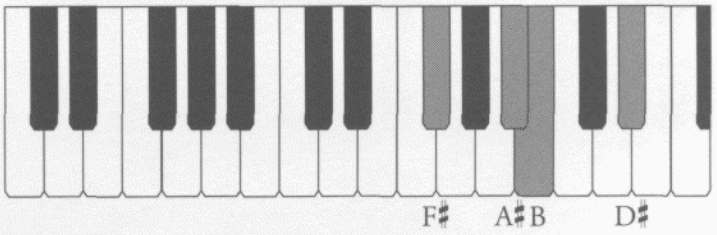
B major7 *first inversion*



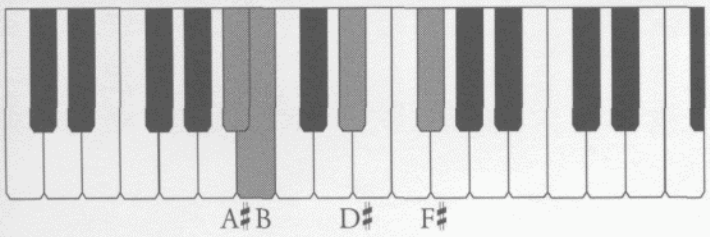


B major7 *second inversion*

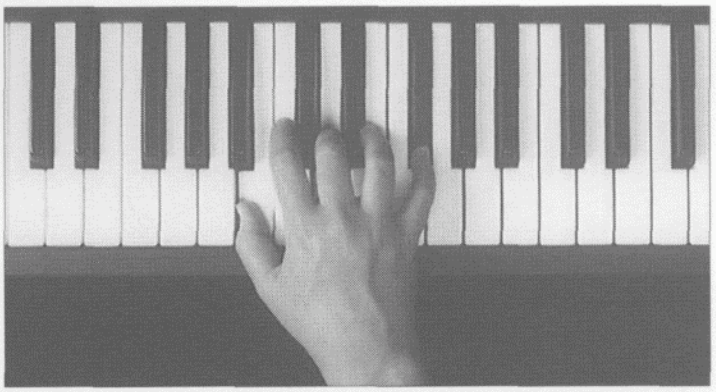


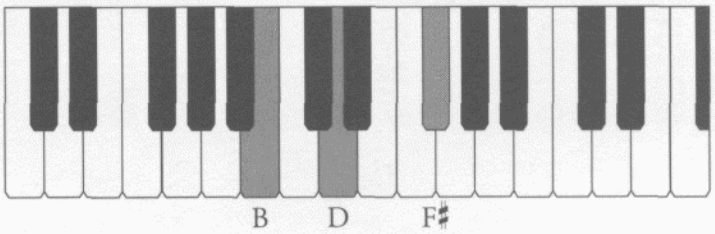


B major7 *third inversion*

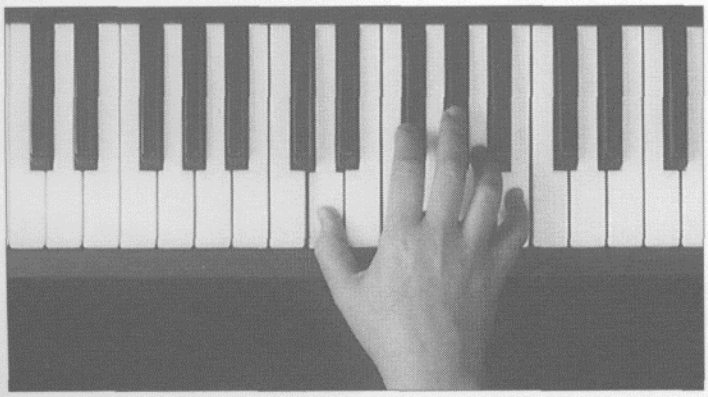


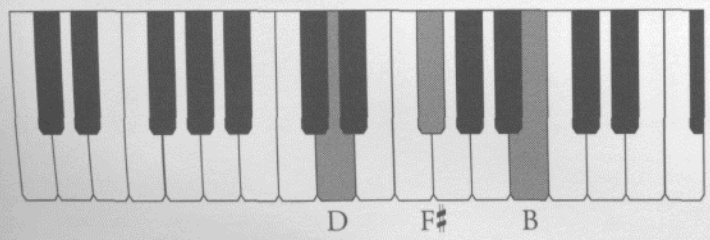
B minor



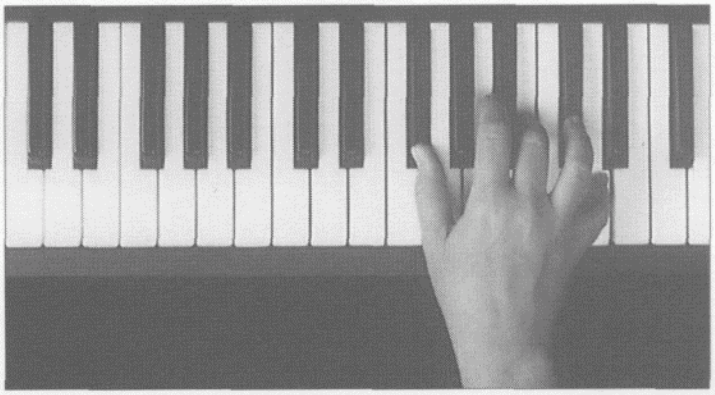


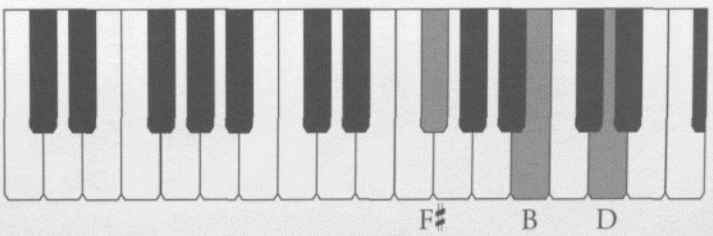
B minor *first inversion*



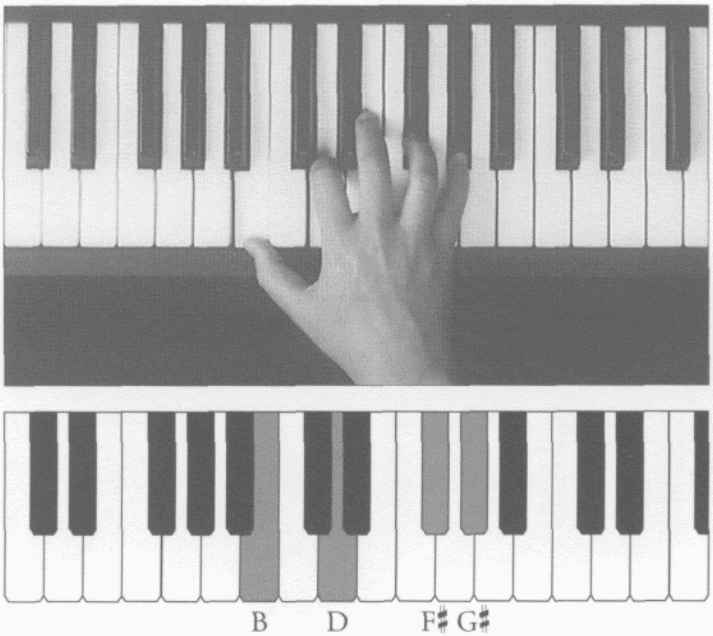


B minor *second inversion*

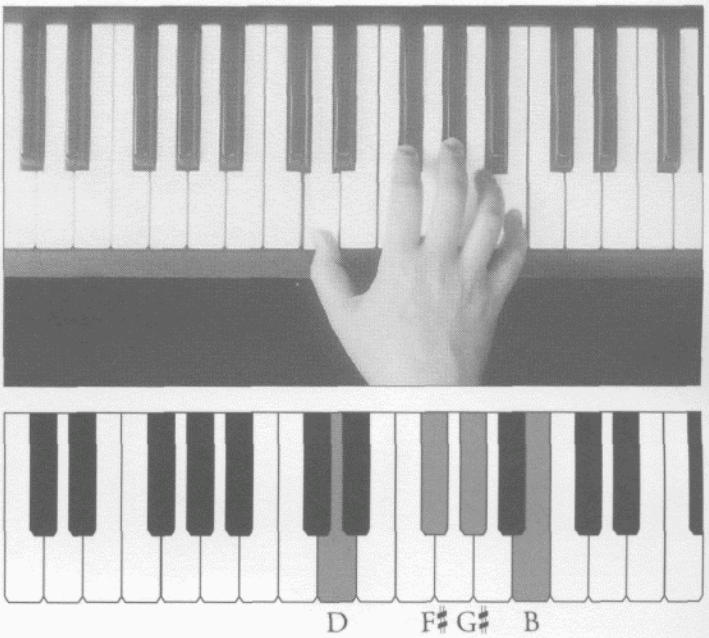




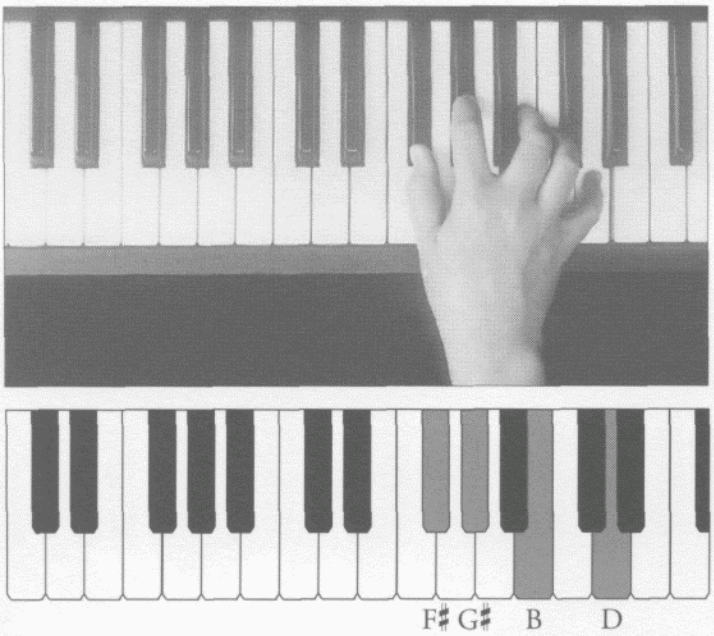
B minor6



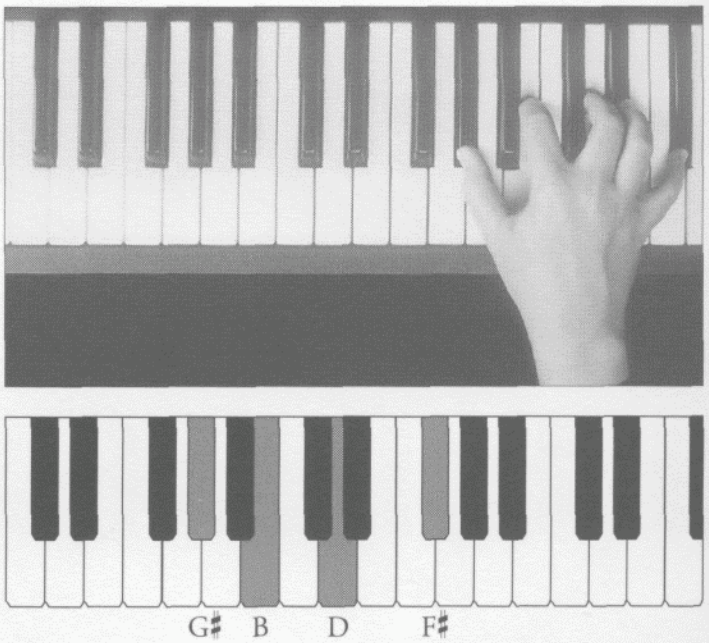
B minor6 *first inversion*



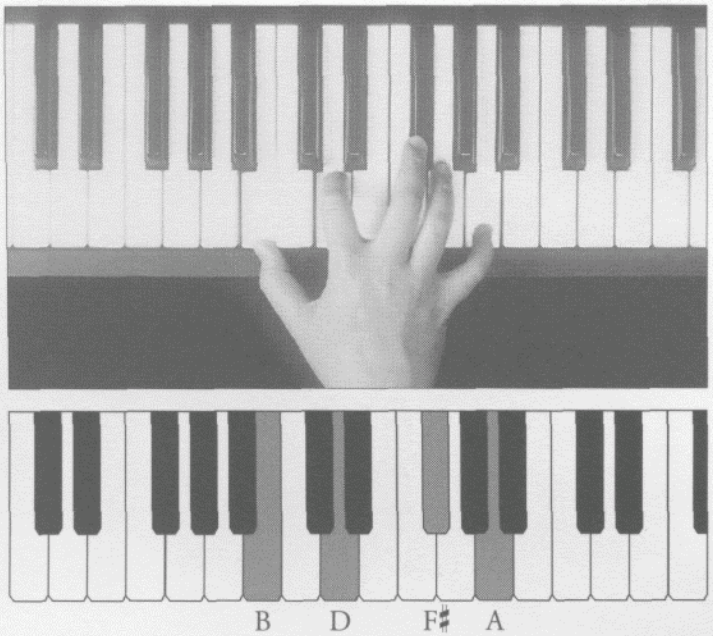
B minor6 *second inversion*



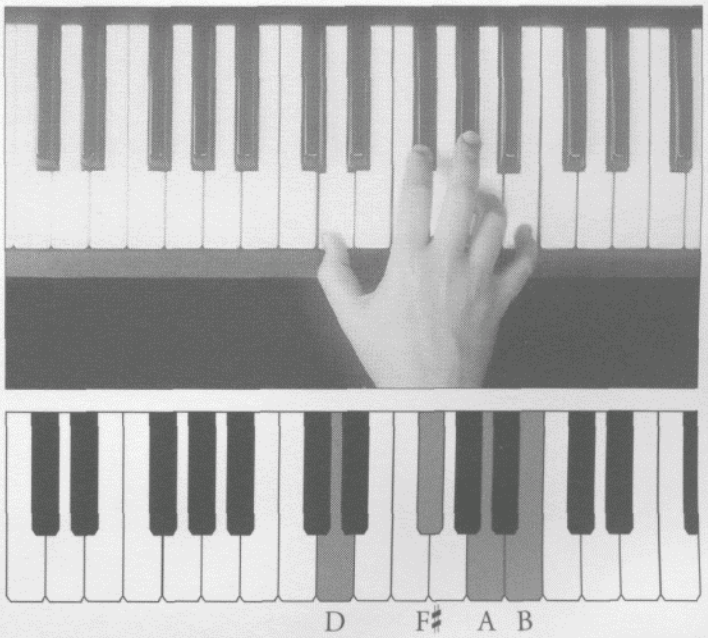
B minor6 *third inversion*



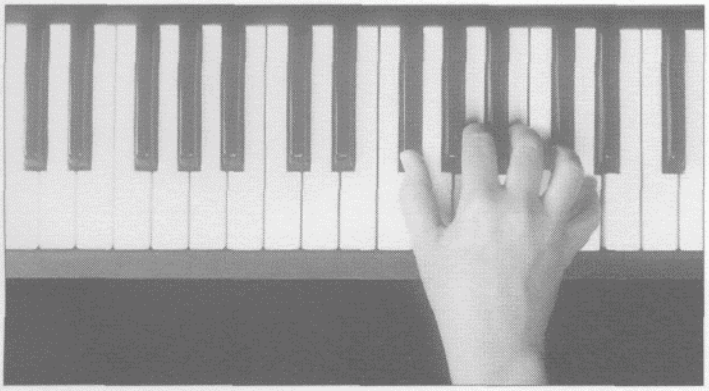
B minor7



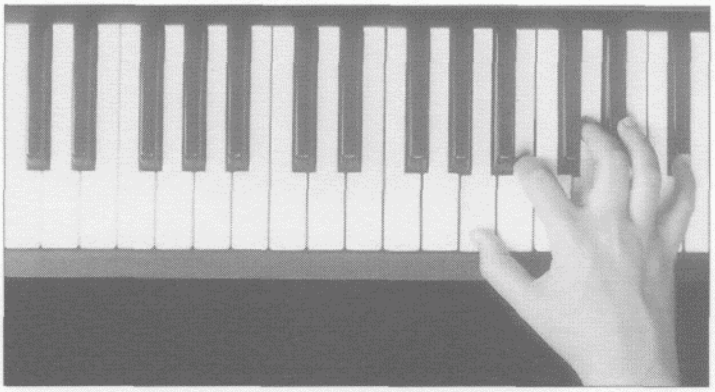
B minor7 *first inversion*



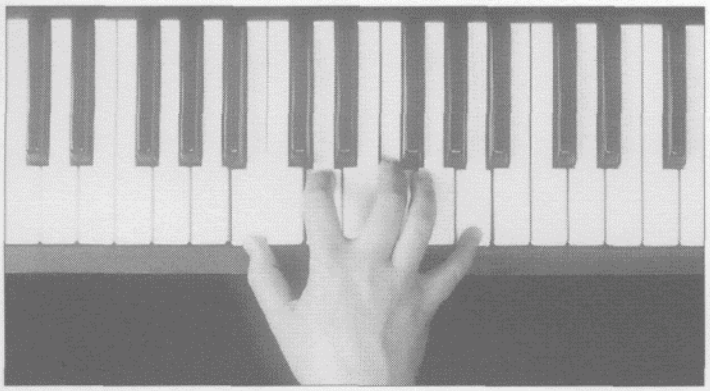
B minor7 *second inversion*

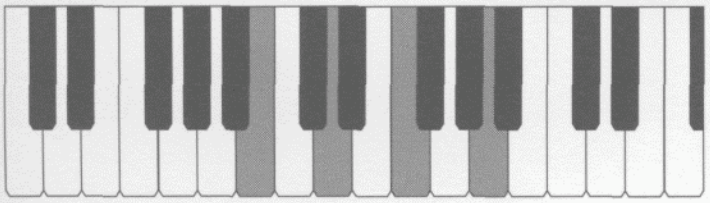


B minor7 *third inversion*

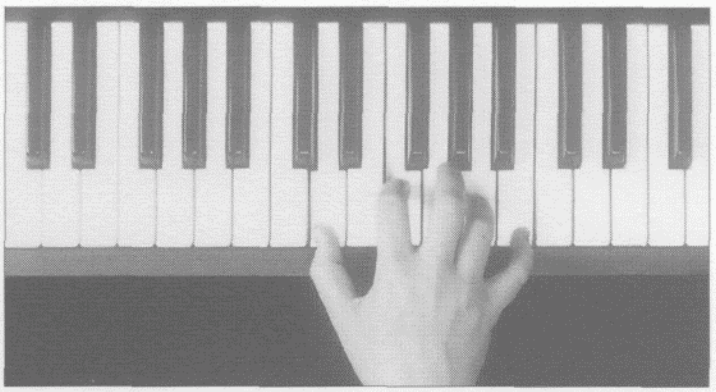


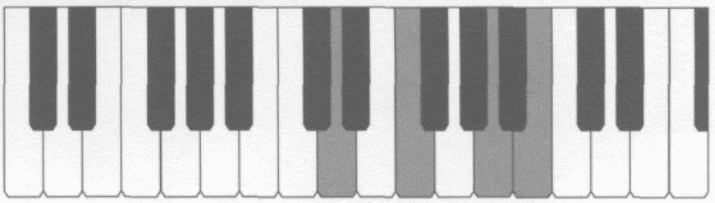
B minor7♭5



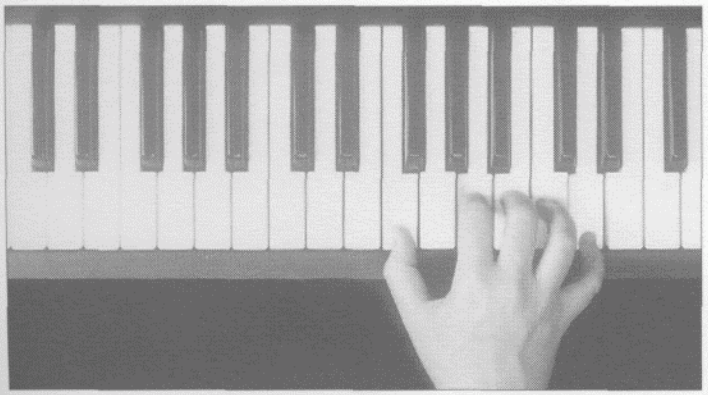


B minor7♭5 *first inversion*

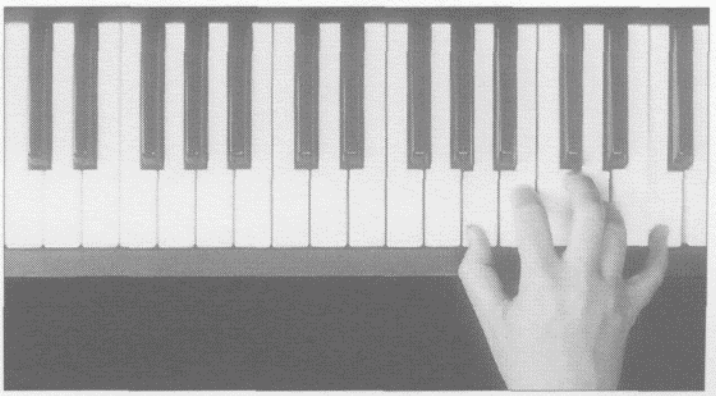


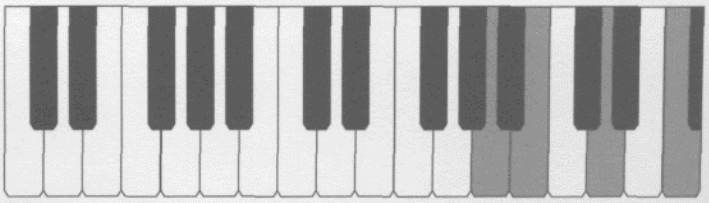


B minor7♭5 *second inversion*

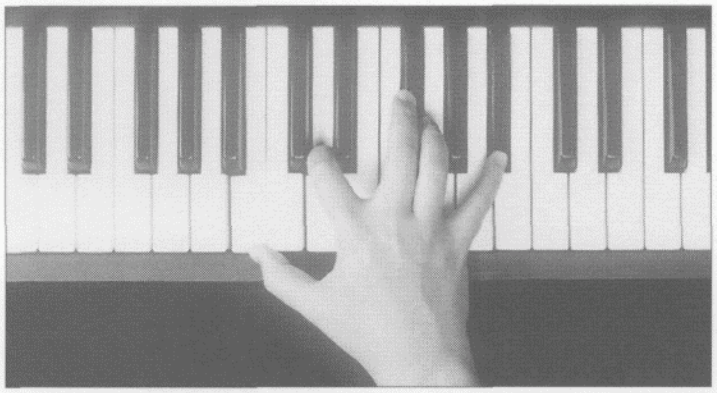


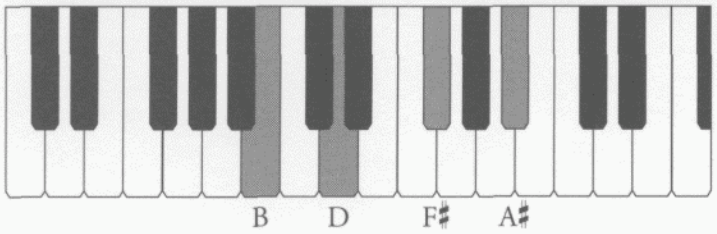
B minor7♭5 *third inversion*



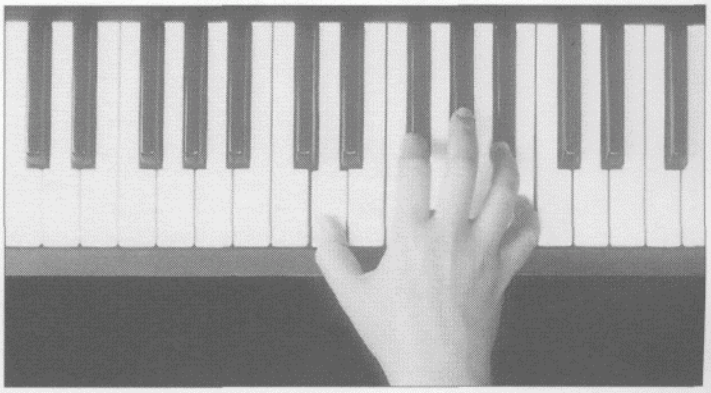


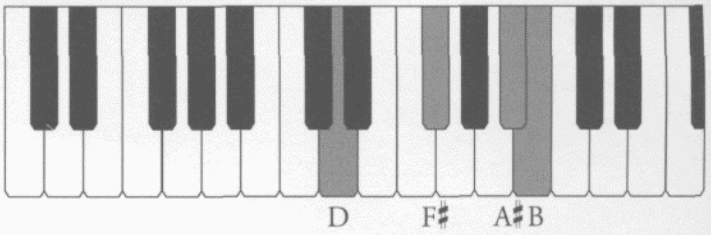
B minor (major7)



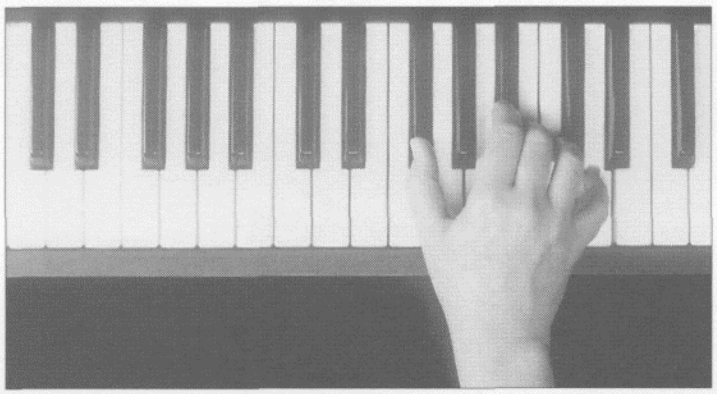


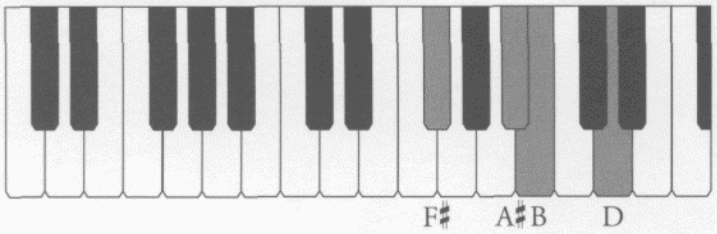
B minor (major7) *first inversion*



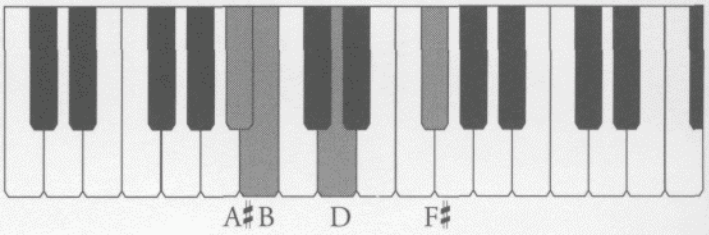


B minor (major7) *second inversion*



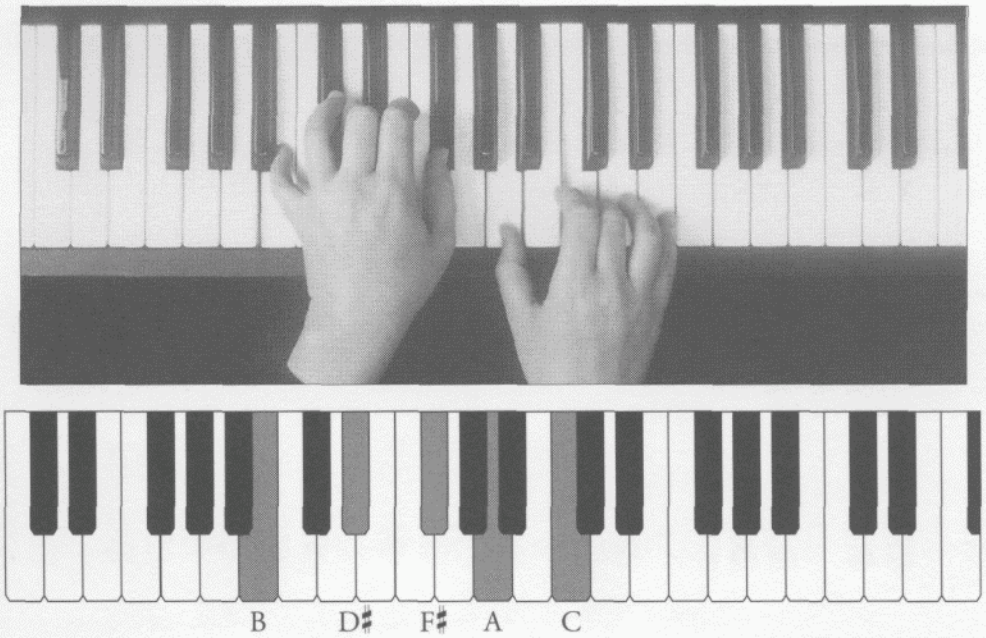


B minor (major7) *third inversion*

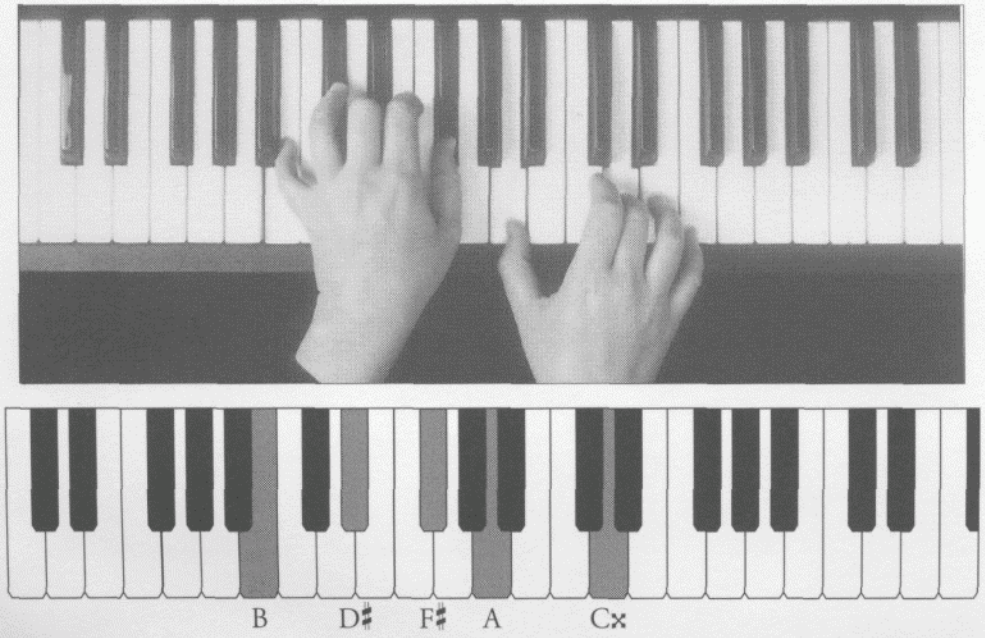


B chords
using both hands

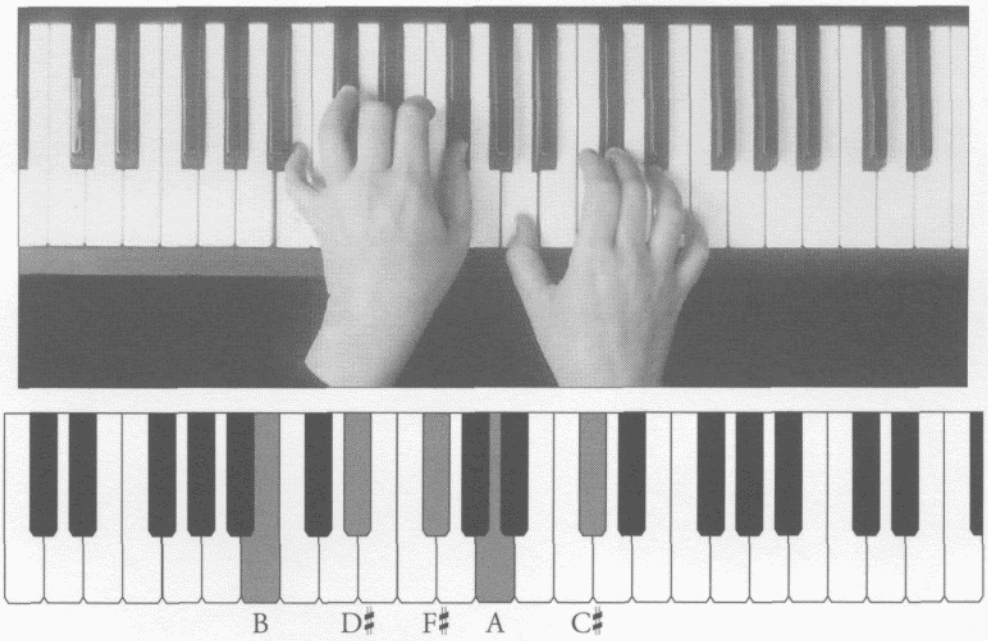
B7♭9



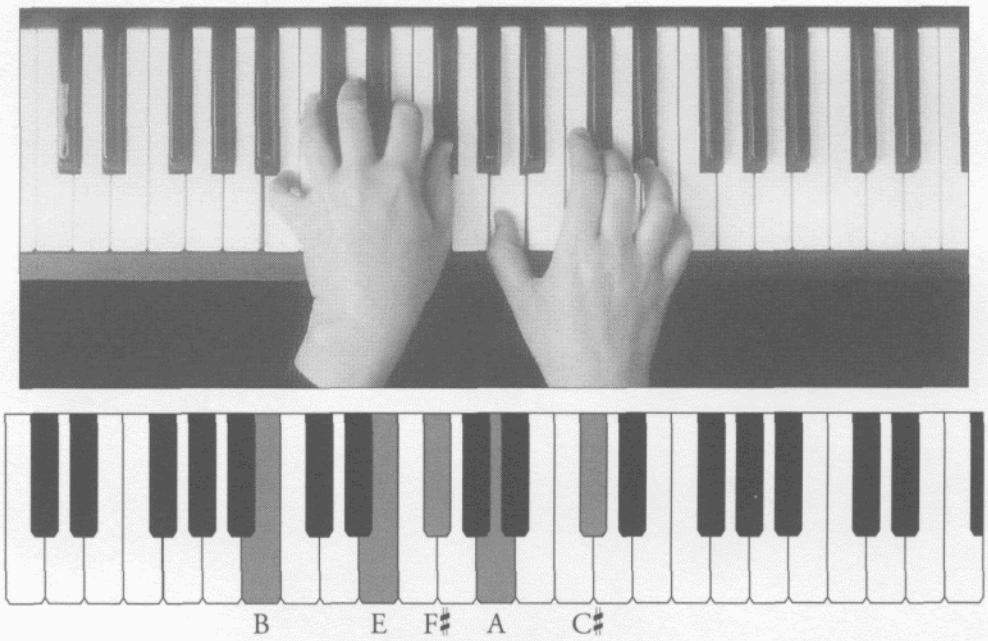
B7♯9



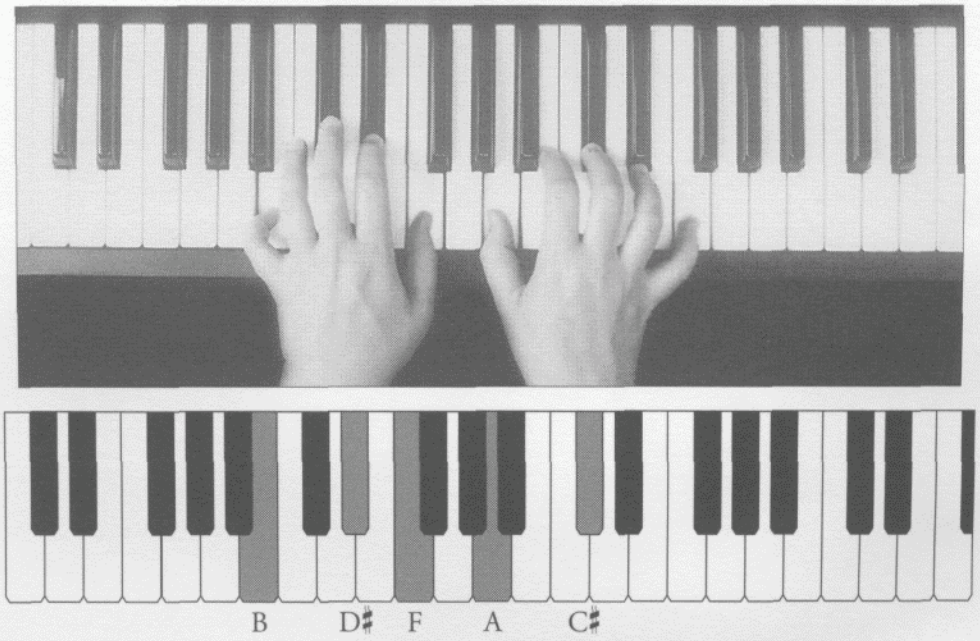
B9



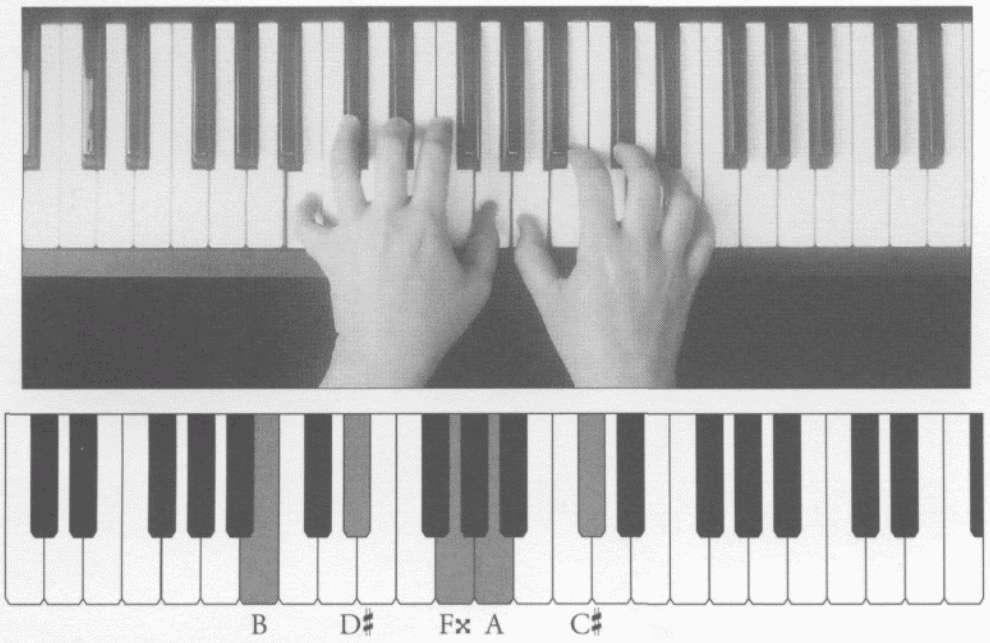
B9sus4



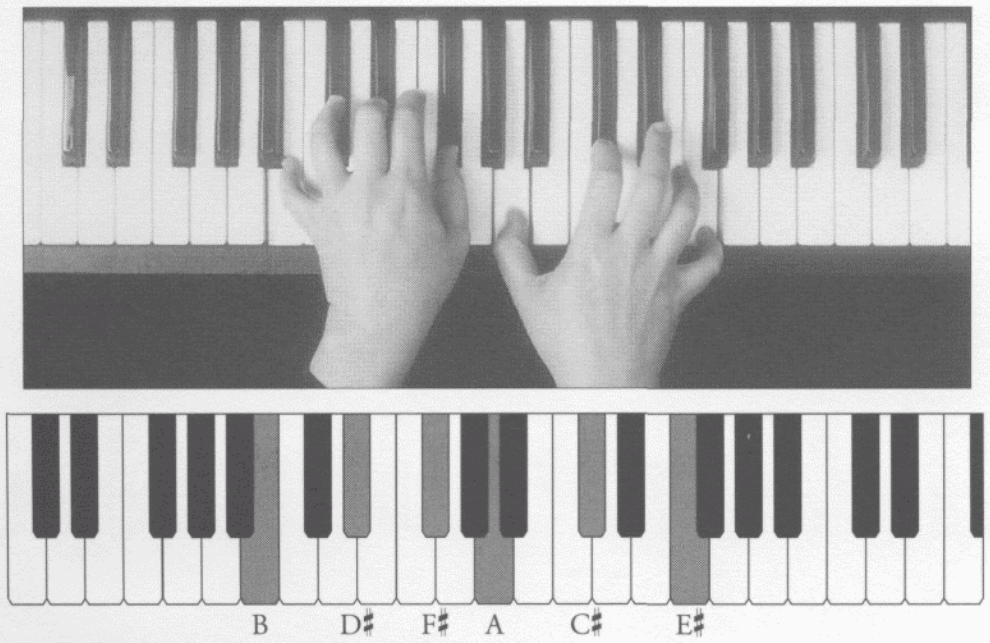
B9♭5



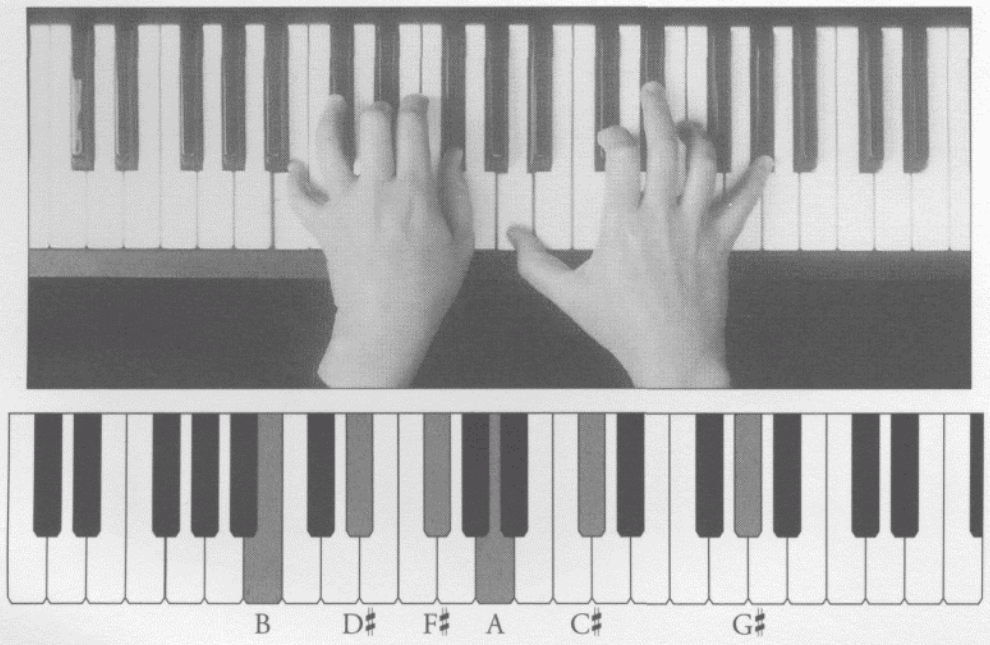
B9♯5



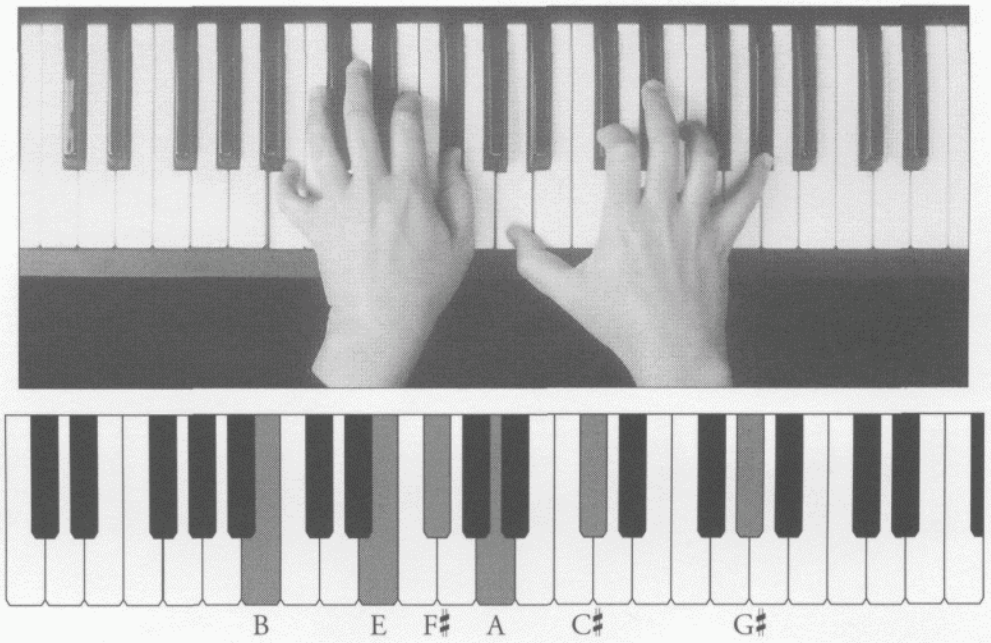
B9♯11



B13



B13sus4



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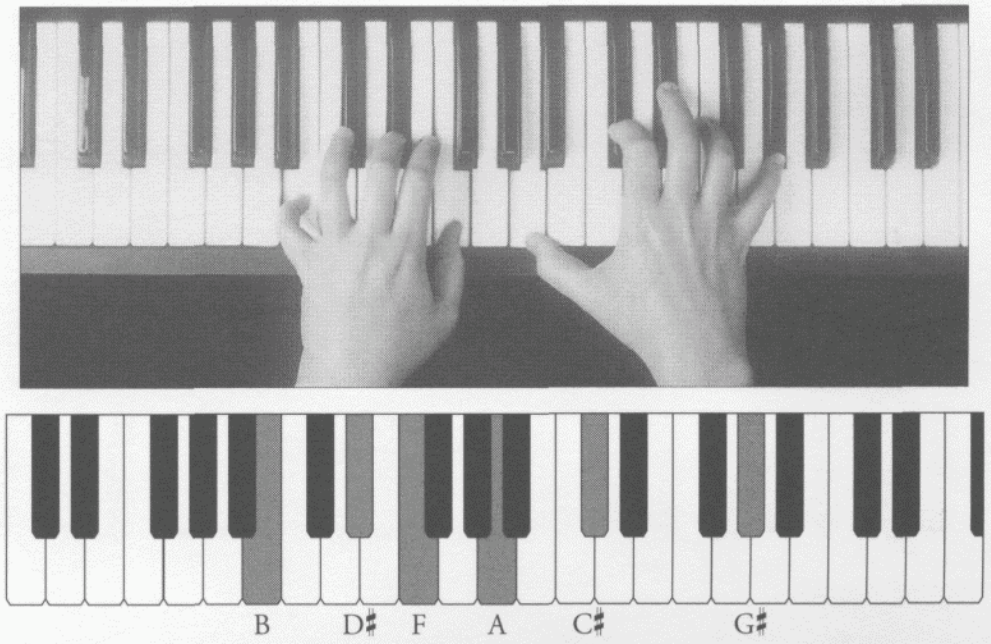

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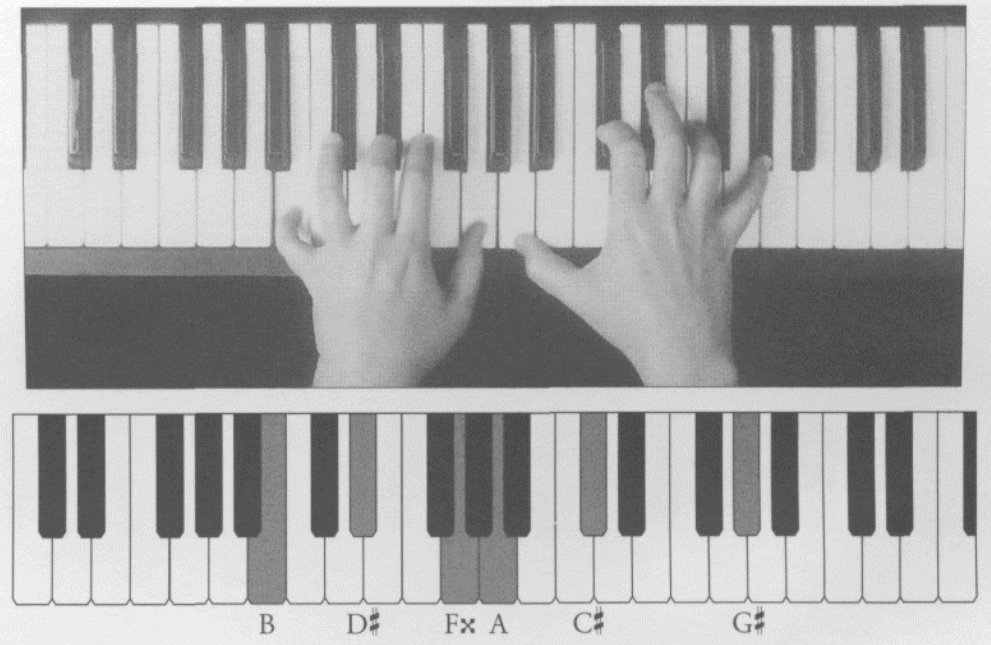
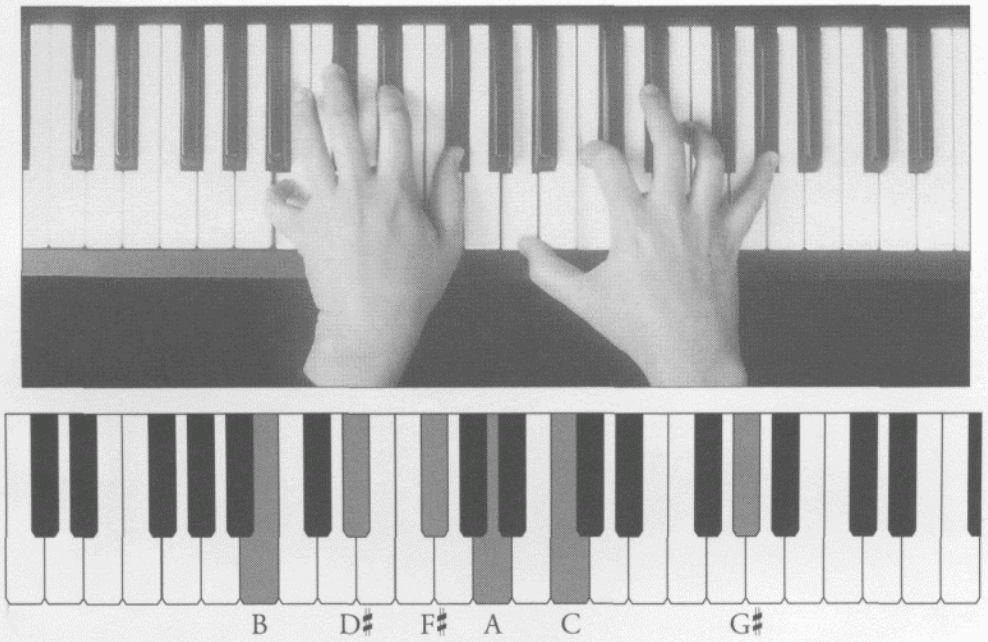


B13♭9



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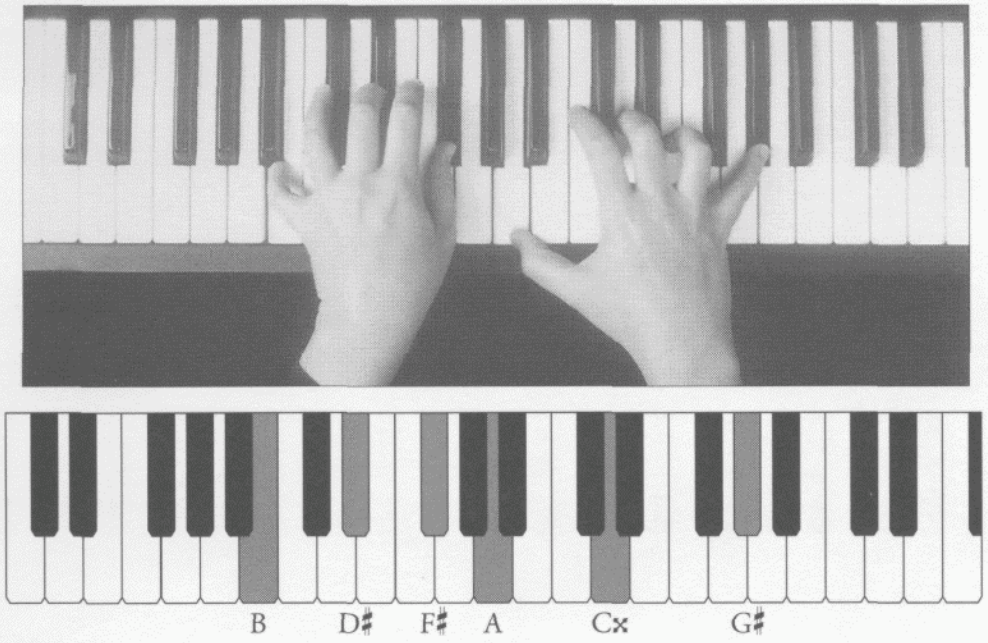
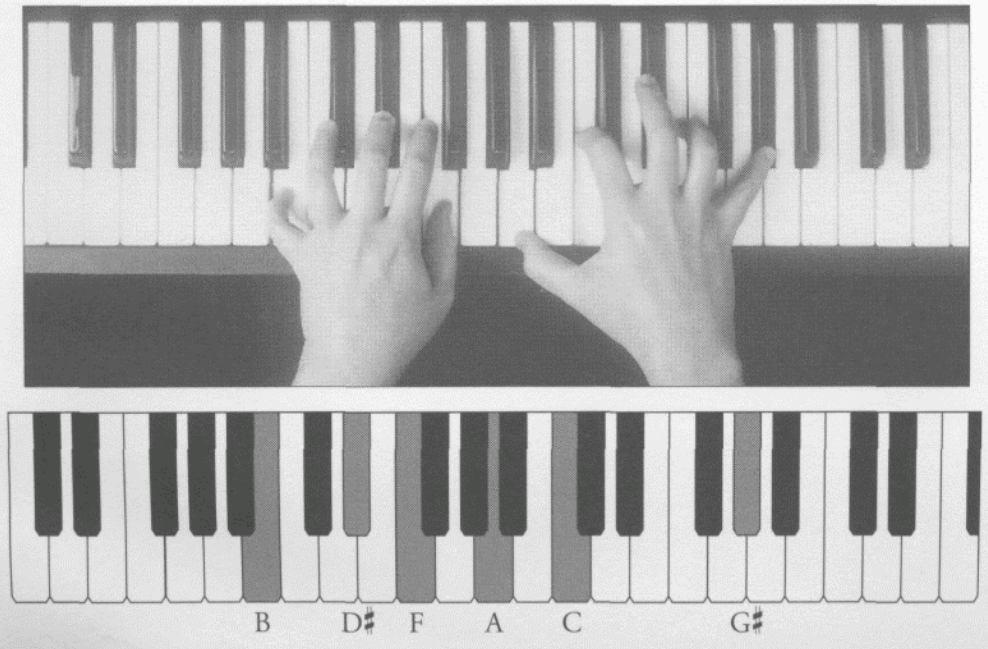


B13♭5♭9



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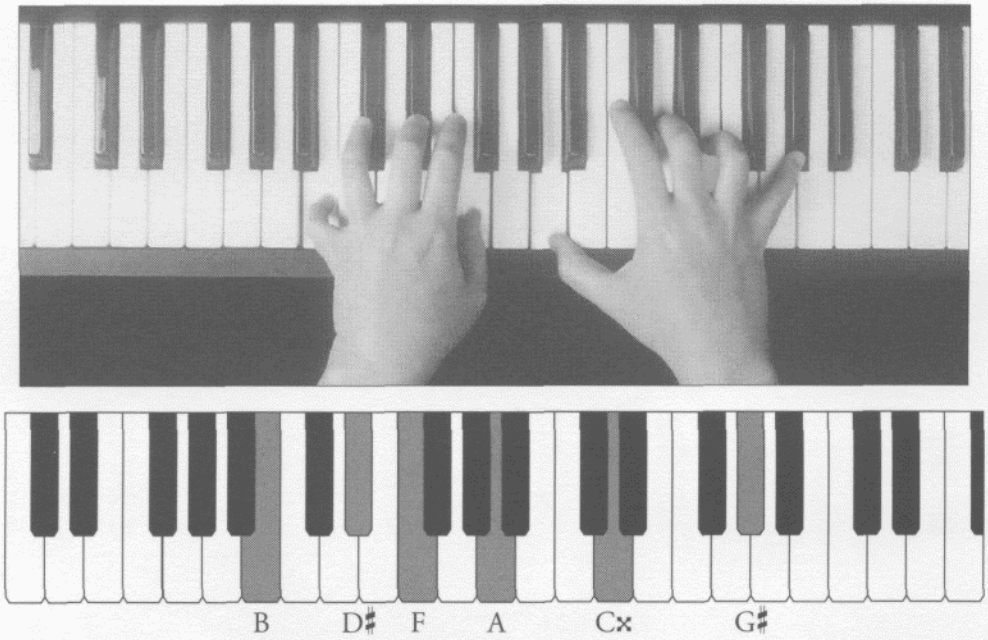
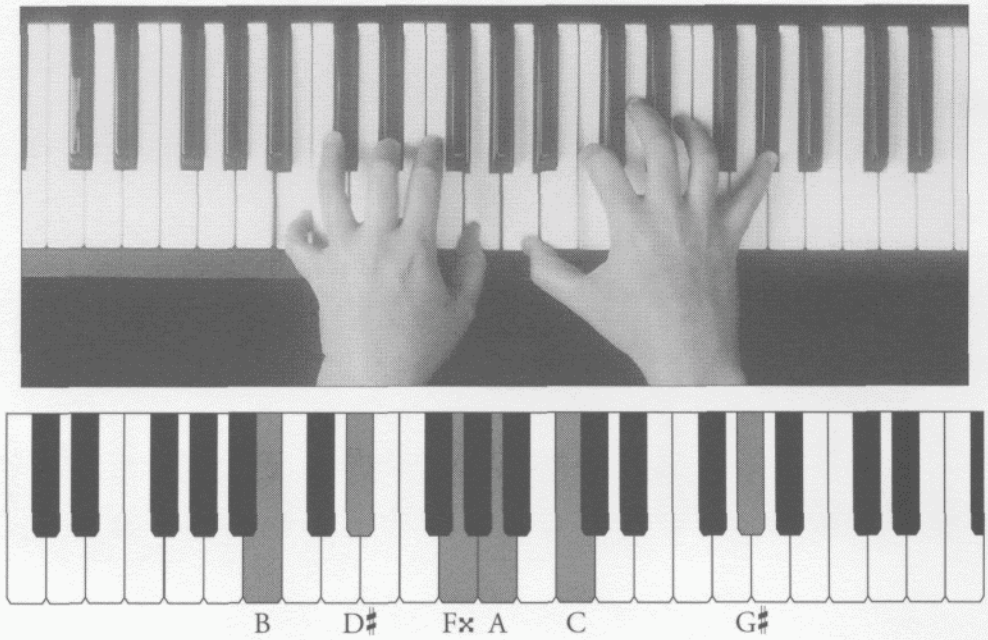
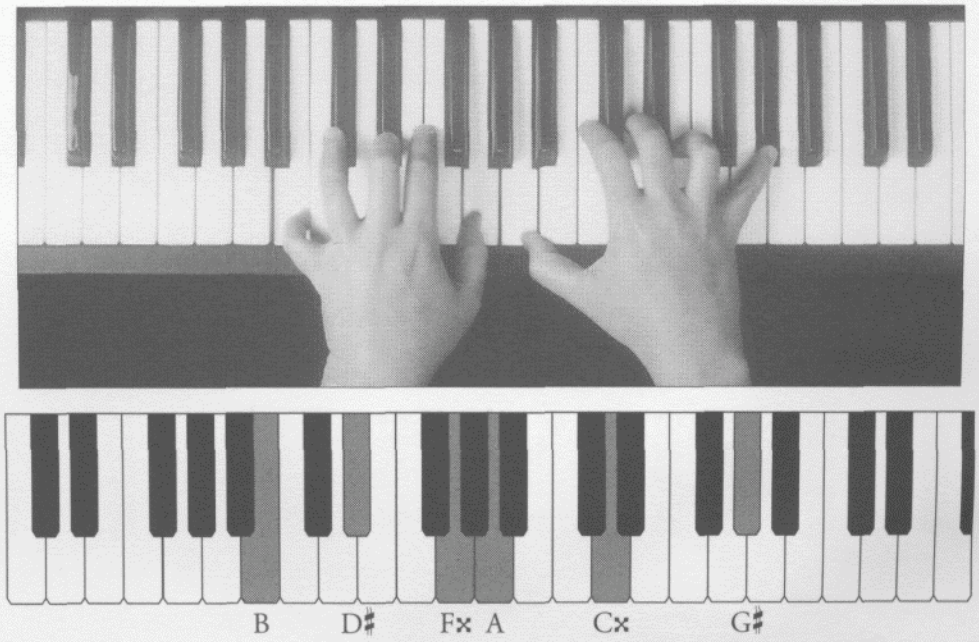


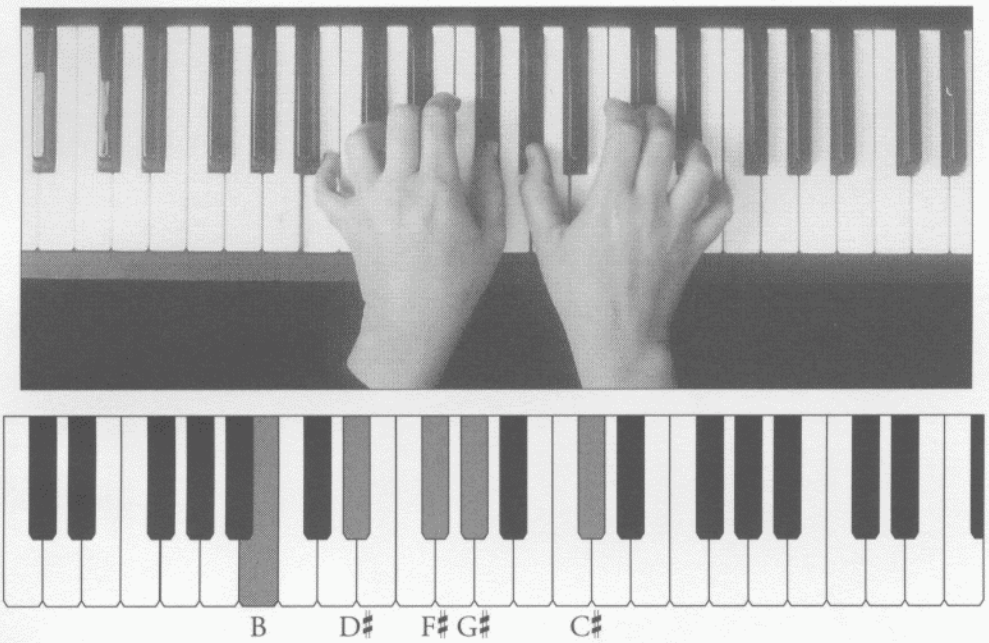
B13♯5♭9



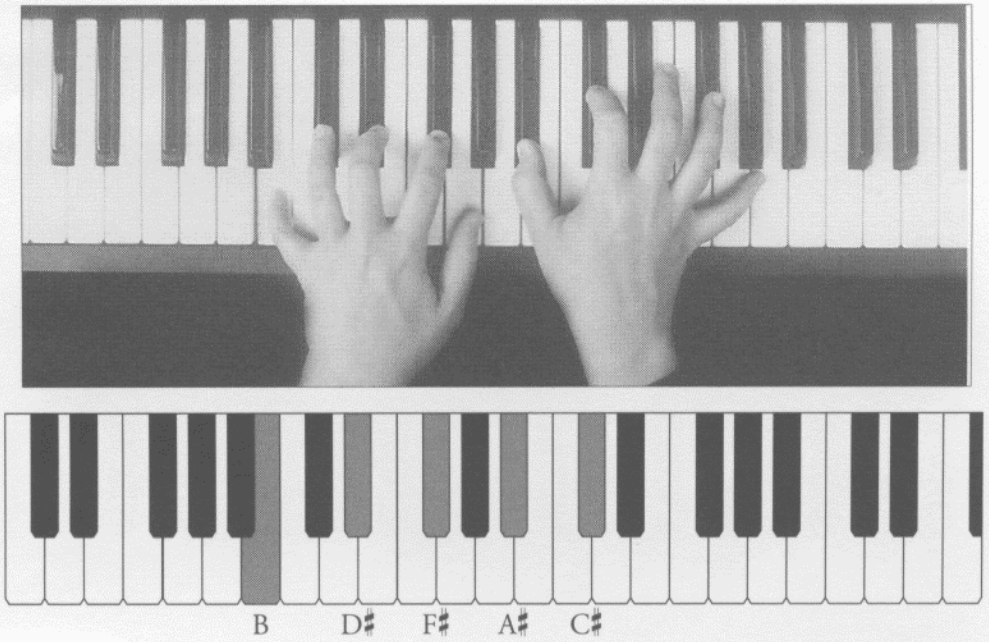
B13♯5♯9



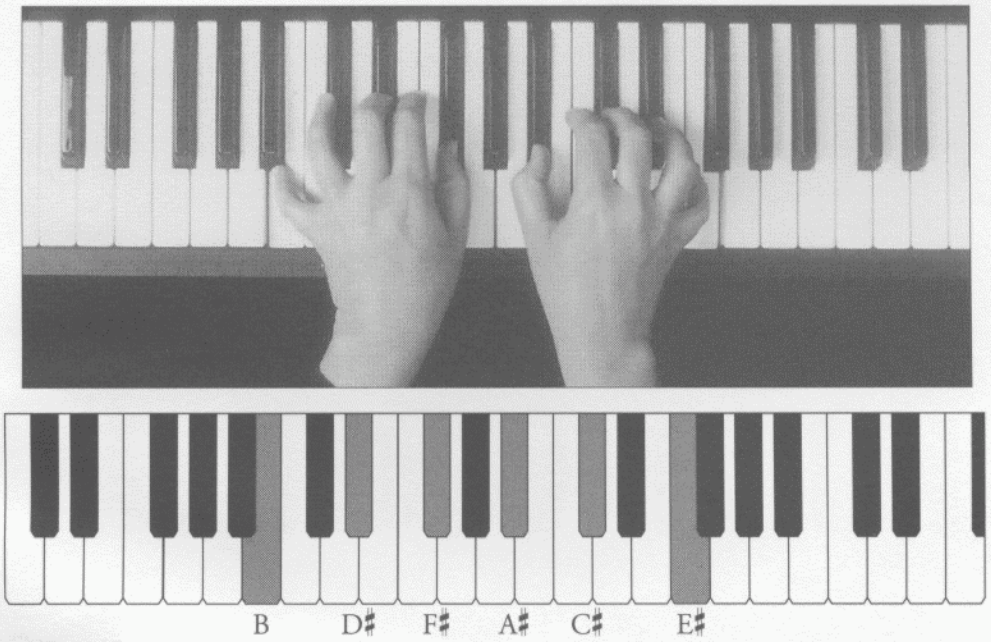
B 6/9



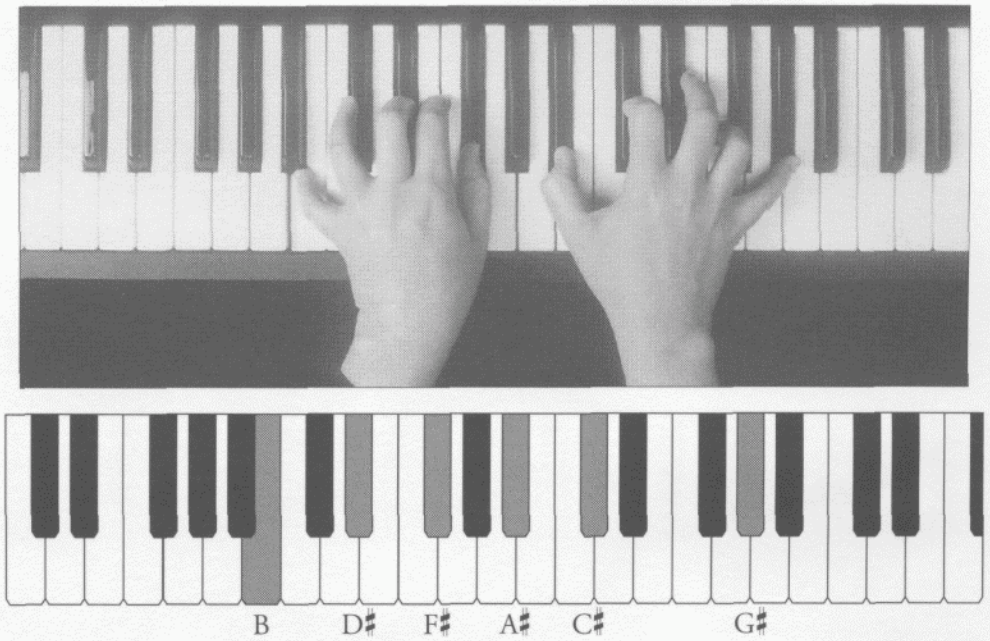
B major9



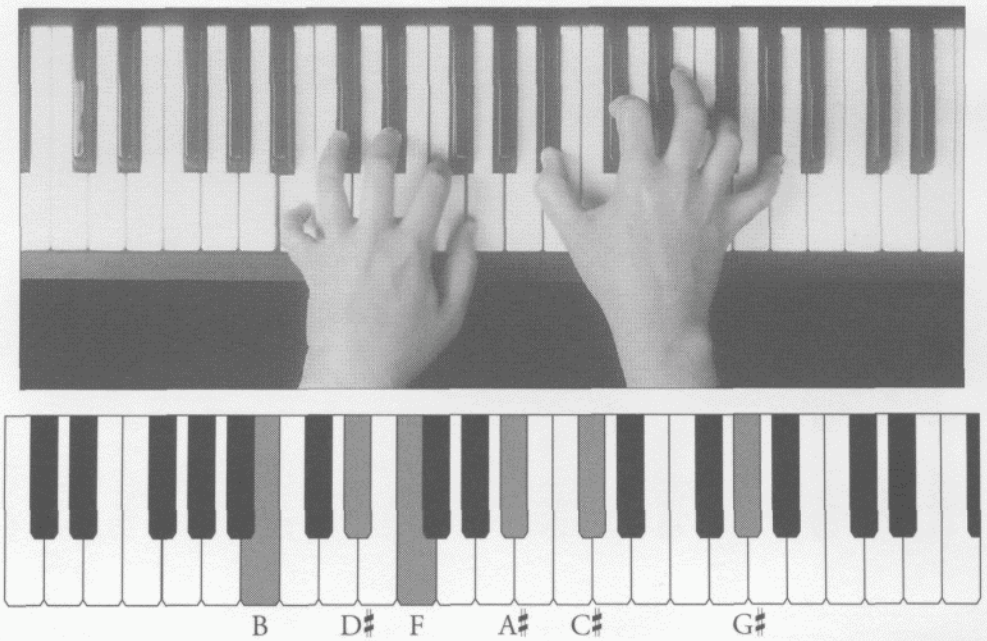
B major9♯11



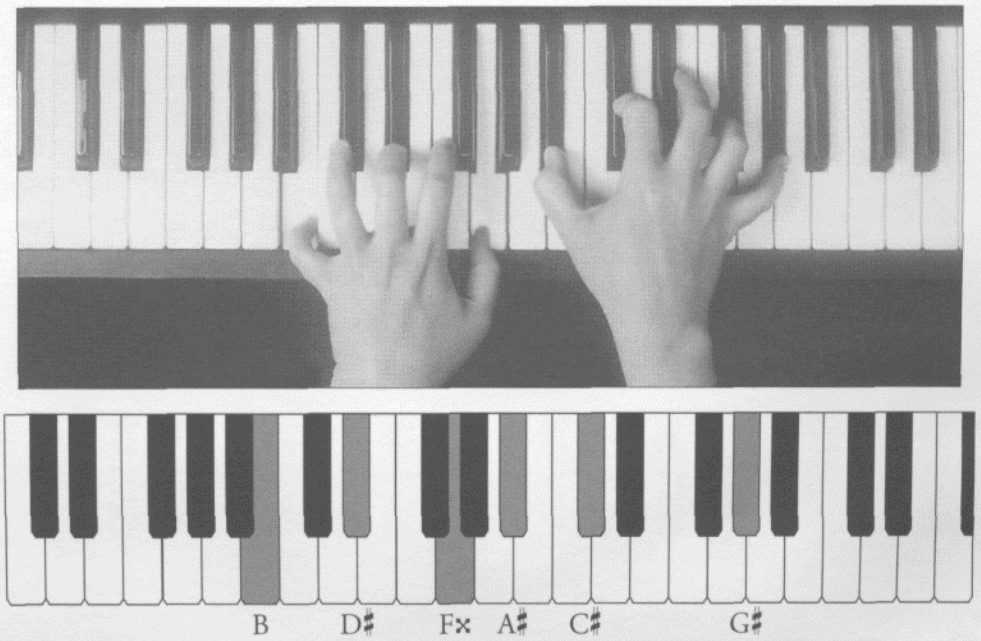
B major13



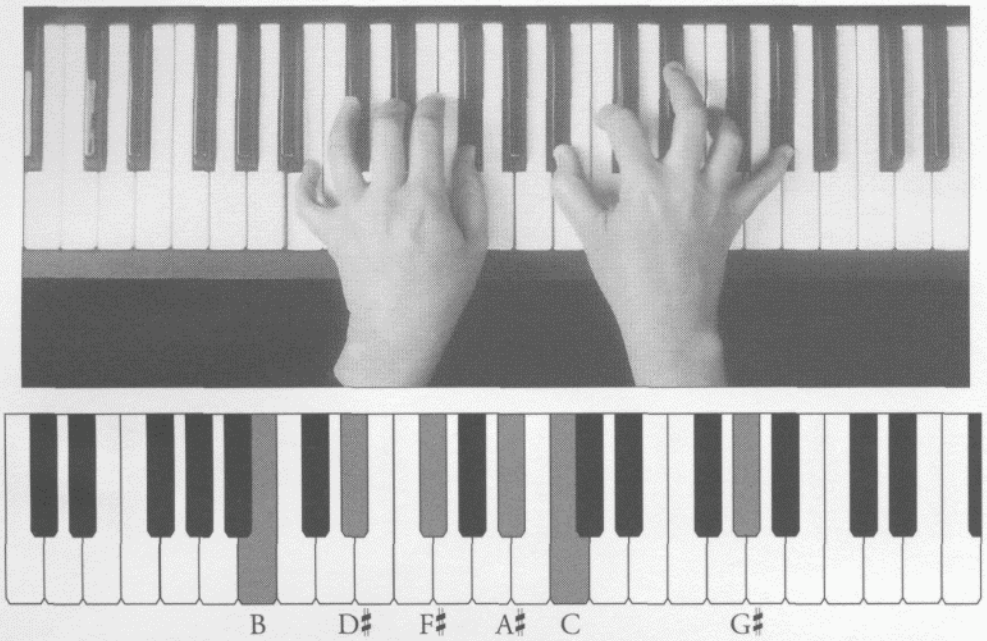
B major13♭5



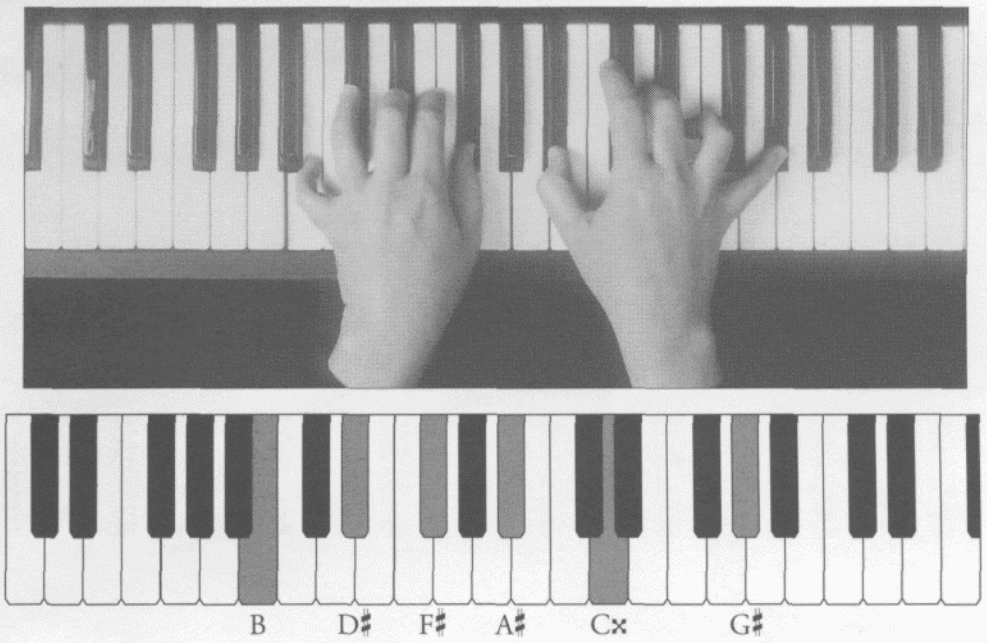
B major13♯5



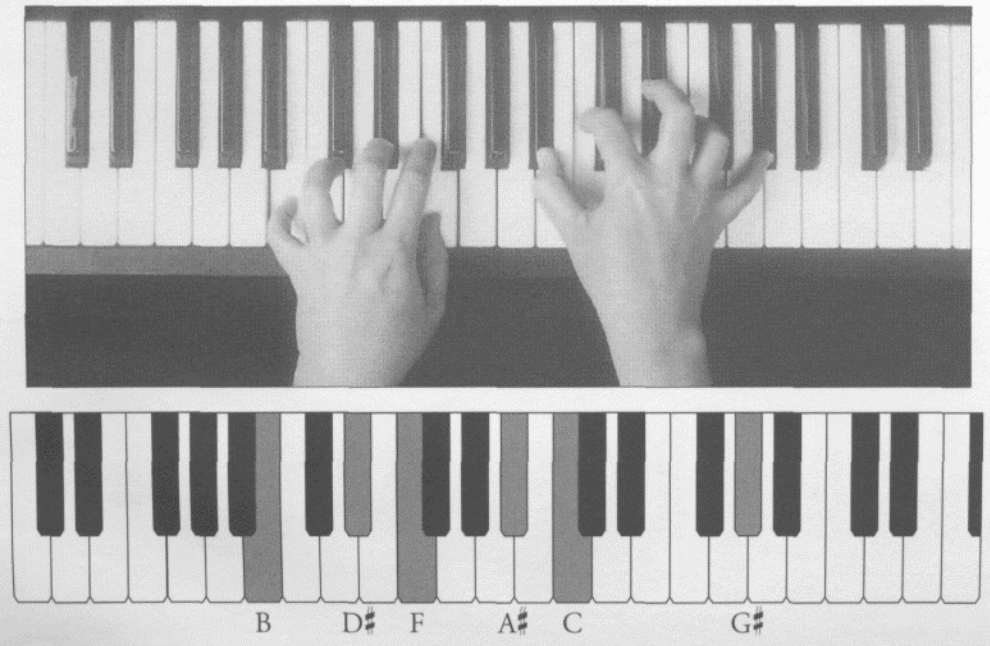
B major13♭9



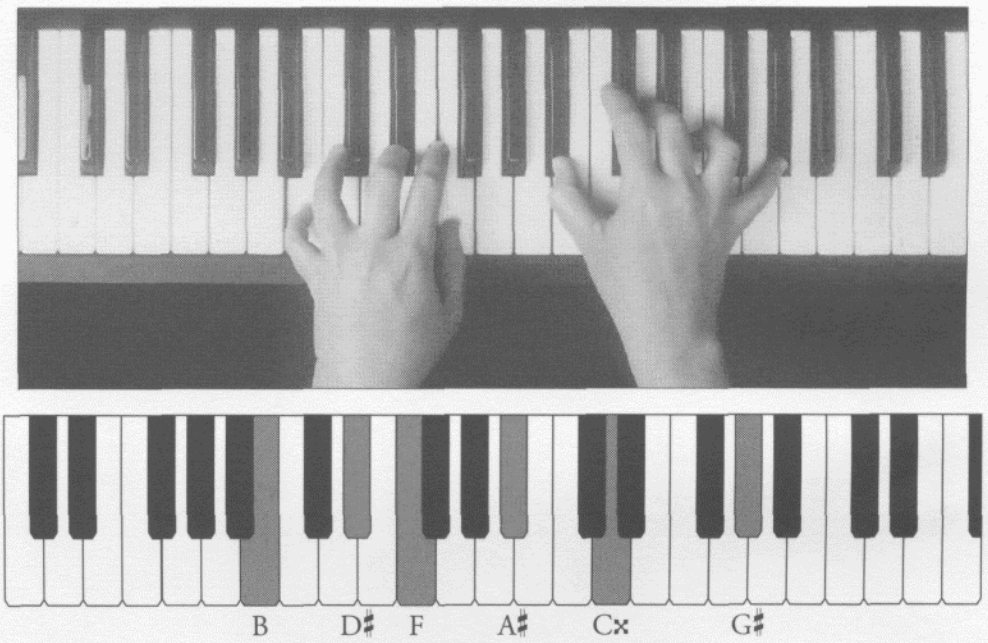
B major13♯9



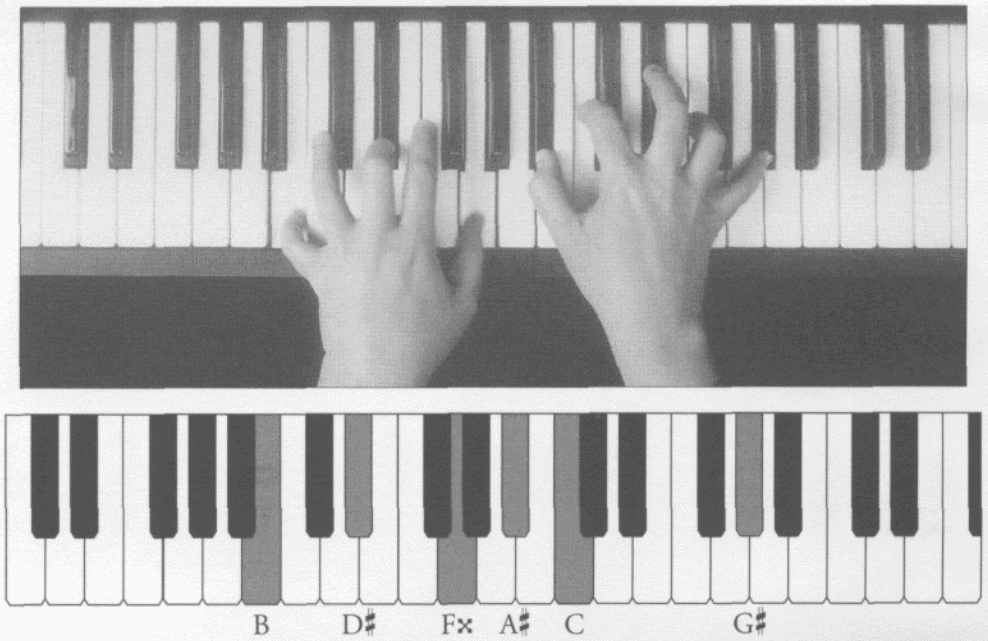
B major13♭5♭9



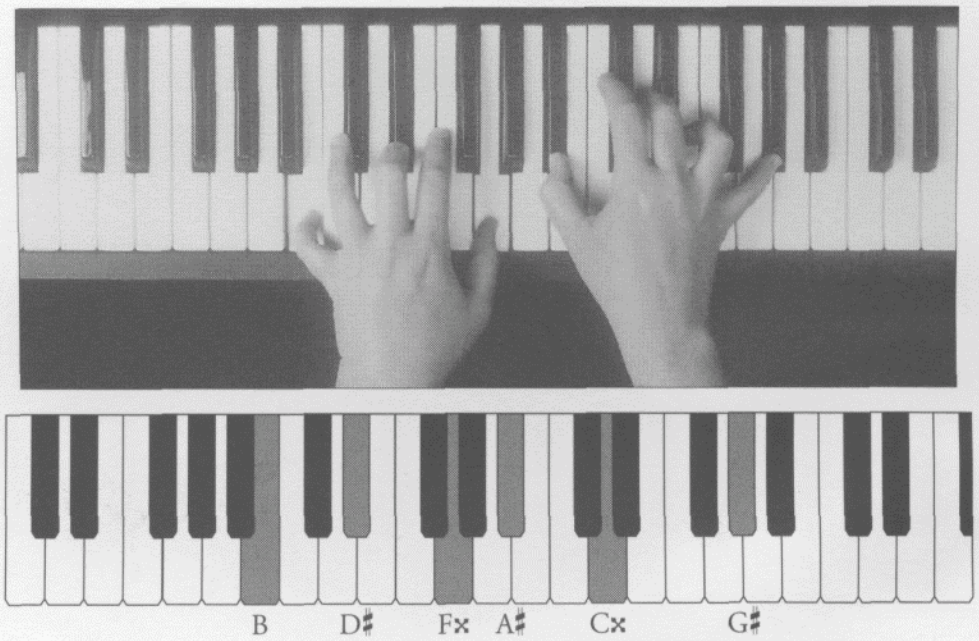
B major13♭5♯9



B major13♯5♭9

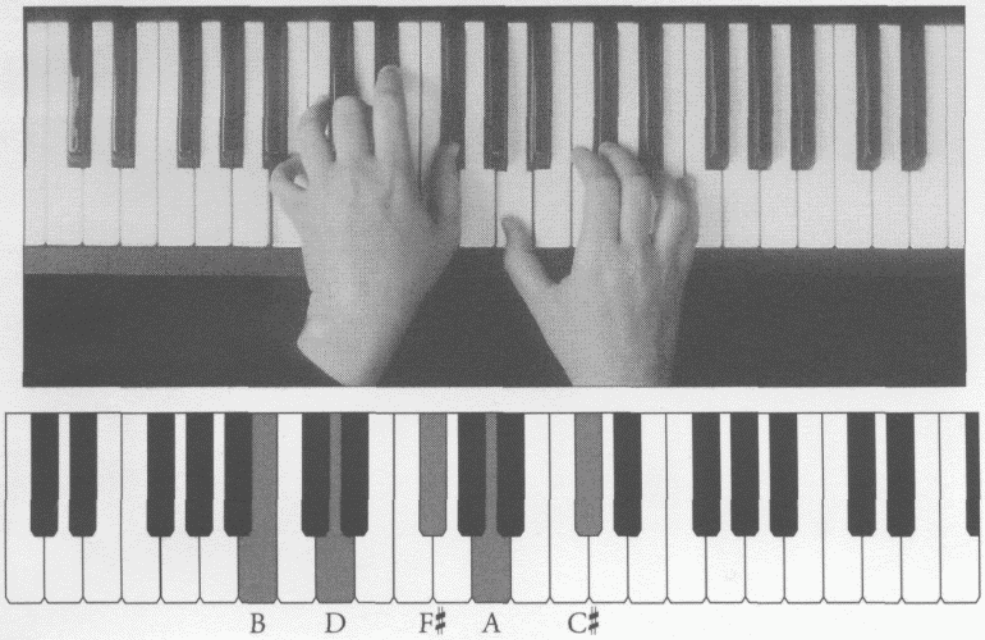


B major13♯5♯9

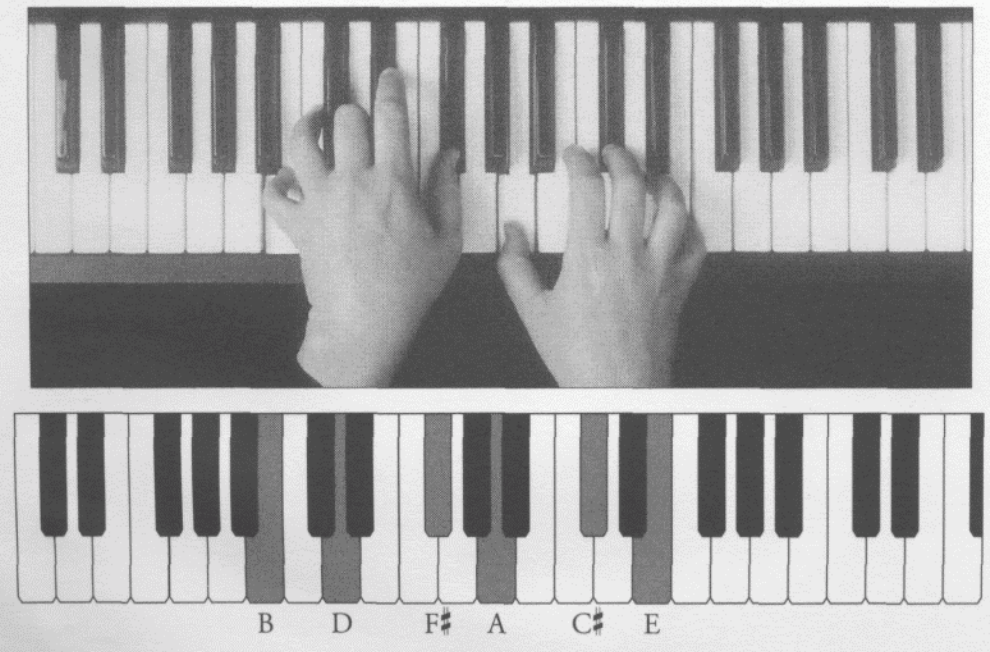


B minor7♭9

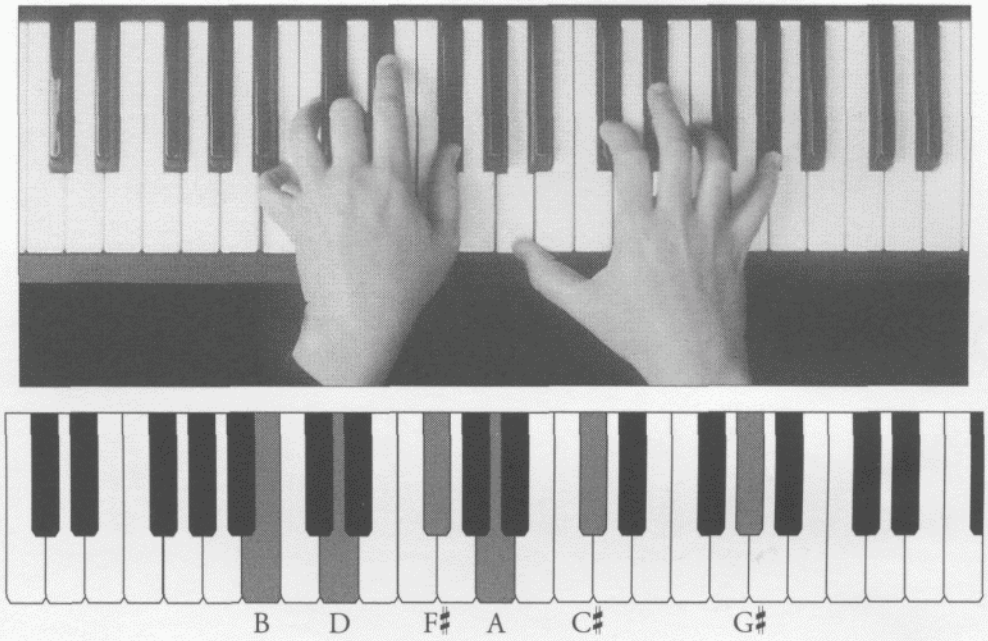
B minor9



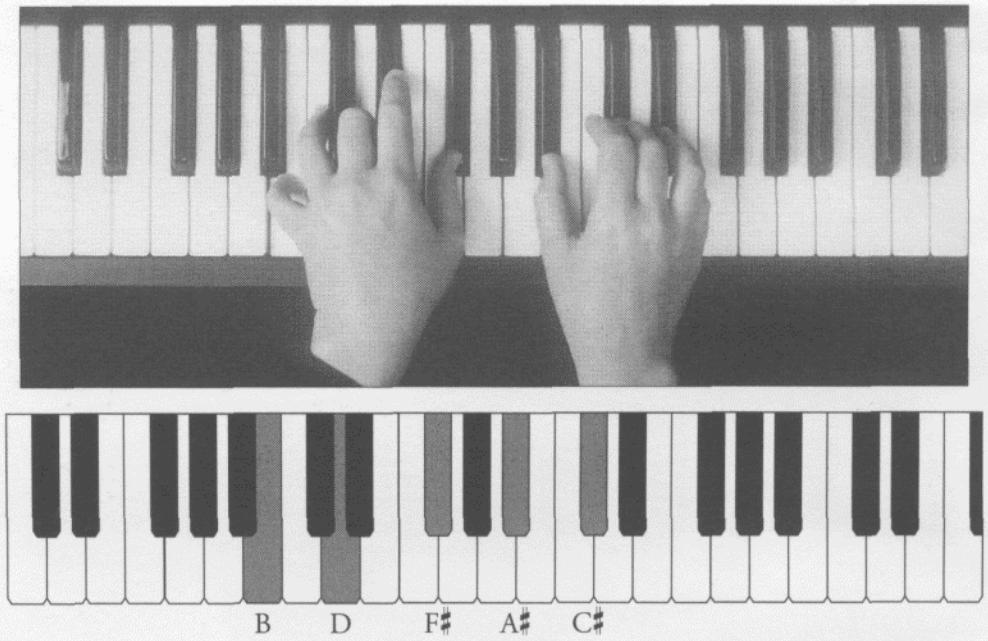
B minor11



B minor13



B minor9 (major7)

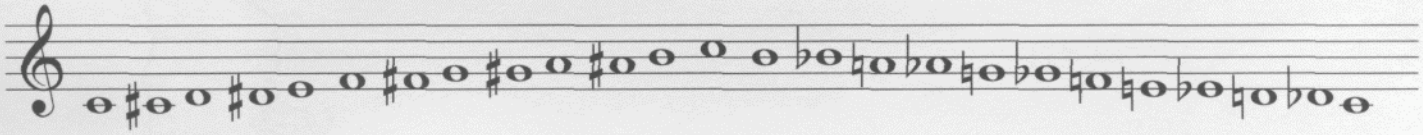


Chord Construction

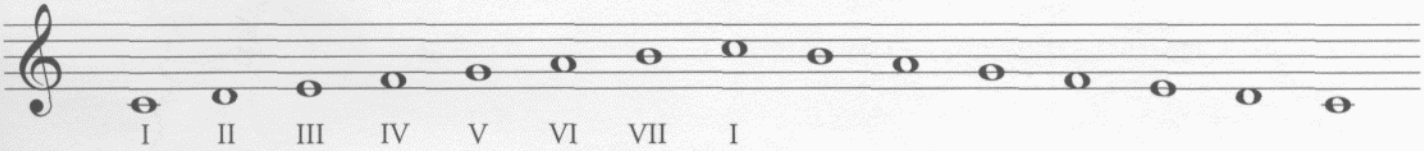
Scales

In order to talk about chord structure we need to discuss the foundation by which chords are formed—*scales*. There are a multitude of scales available to the musician, but we will explain only those that are most pertinent—the major, minor, and chromatic scales.

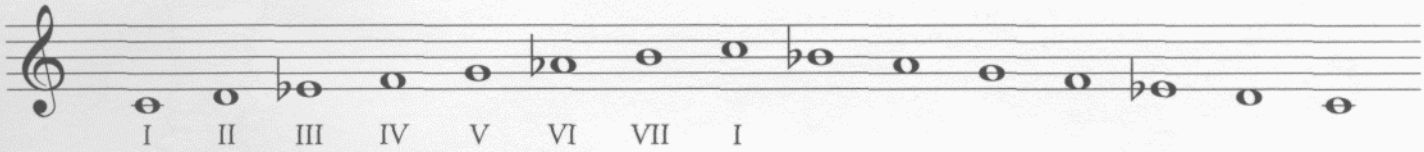
Chromatic:



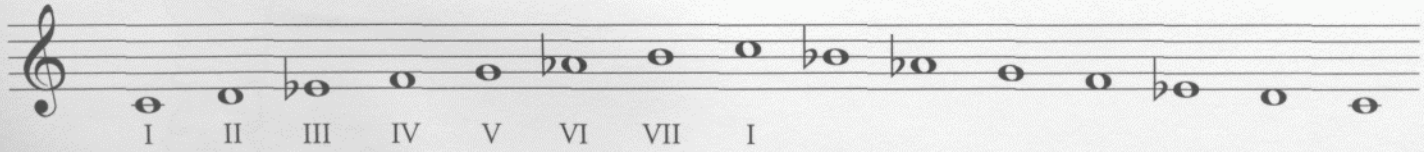
Major:



Harmonic minor:



Melodic minor:

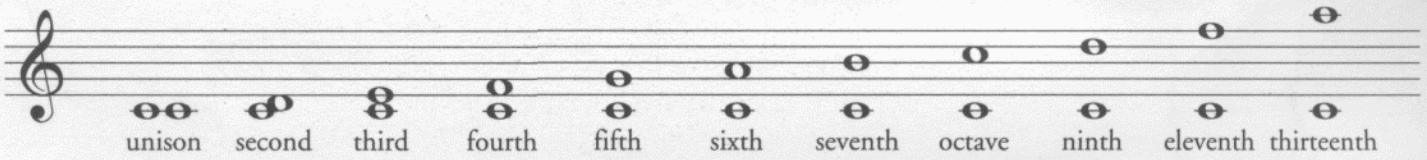


Scales are determined by the distribution of half-tones and whole-tones. For example, the major scale has half-tones between scale steps three and four, and between seven and eight. The harmonic minor has half-tones between scale steps two and three, five and six, and seven and eight. The melodic minor scale's ascending order finds half-steps at six and five and three and two, and a whole-step is now in the place of eight and seven.
It is common to refer to scale steps, or *degrees,* by Roman numerals as in the example above and also by the following names:

I. Tonic
II. Supertonic
III. Mediant
IV. Subdominant
V. Dominant
VI. Submediant
VII. Leading-tone

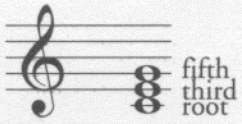
Intervals

An *interval* is the distance between two notes. This is the basis for harmony (chords). The naming of intervals, as in the example below, is fairly standard, but you may encounter other terminology in various forms of musical literature.



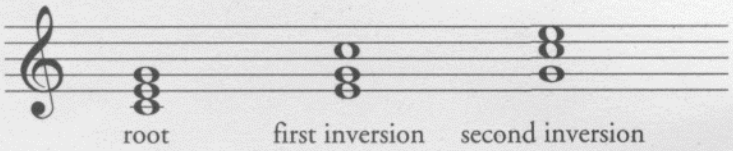
Chords

Chords are produced by combining two or more intervals, and the simplest of these combinations is a *triad.* A triad consists of three notes obtained by the superposition of two thirds. The notes are called the *root,* the *third,* and the *fifth.*



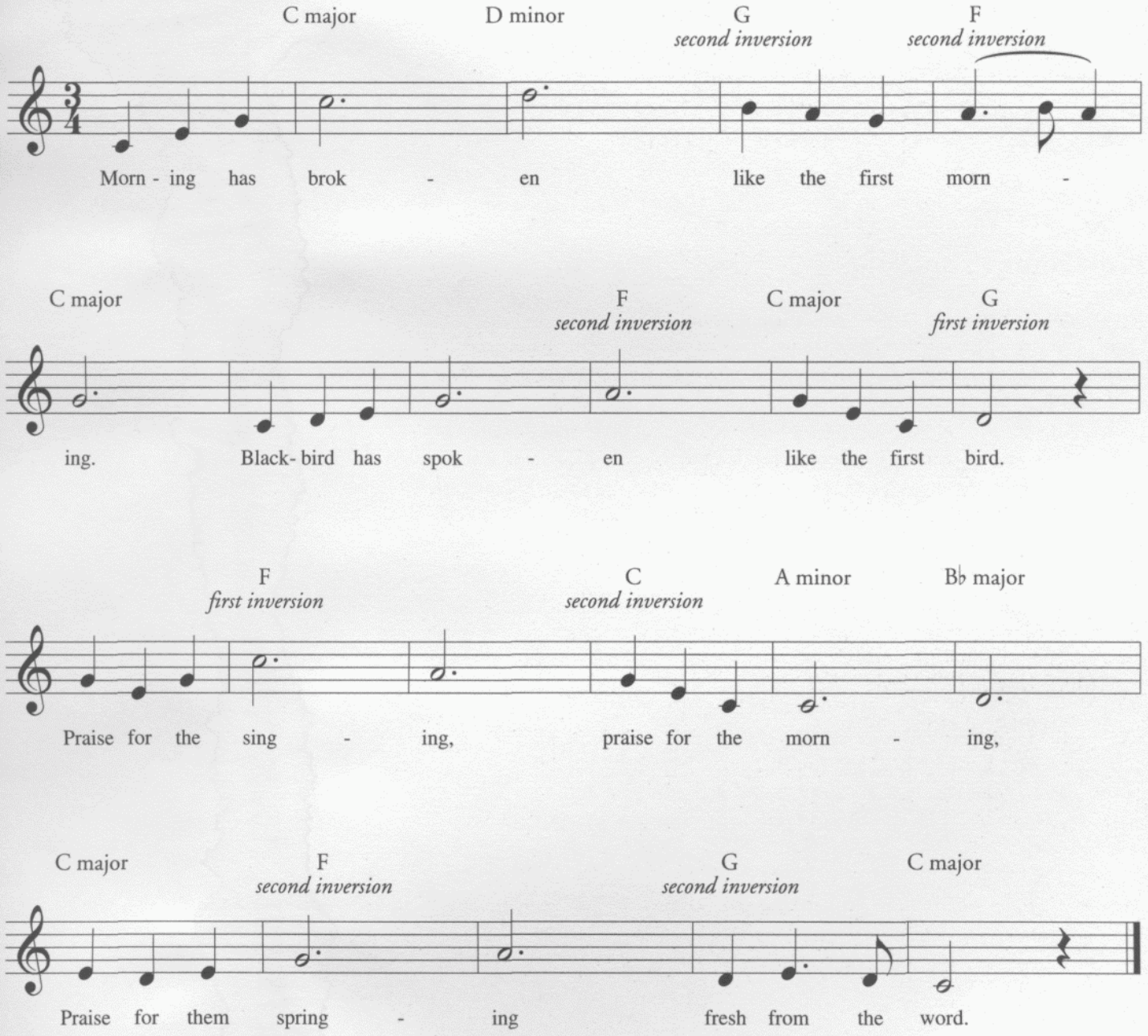
Inversions

Inversions are produced by arranging the intervals of a chord in a different order. A triad that has the root as the bottom or lowest tone is said to be in *root position.* A triad with a third as the bottom or lowest tone is in *first inversion,* and a triad with a fifth as the bottom or lowest tone is in *second inversion.* As the chords become more complex—such as, sixths, sevenths, etc.—there will be more possible inversions.

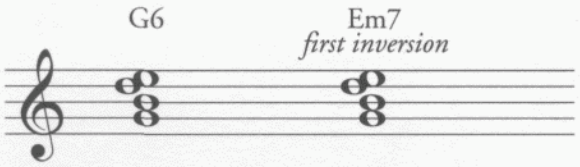


Play *Morning Has Broken* with the suggested inversions. Notice that your fingers are moving one or two keys to the right or left as opposed to moving your whole hand up and down the keyboard. Try playing the same song with the chords in their root position, then go back and play the song with the chord inversions. You will probably notice that the song even sounds better when using inversions, as well as being easier to play. Try using inversions on some of your favorite tunes.

MORNING HAS BROKEN

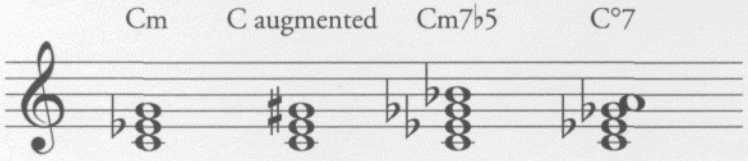


Note that when inverting more complex chords the inversion may actually become a completely different chord.



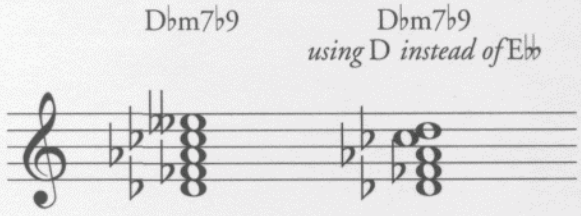
Altered Triads

When a chord consists of a root, major third, and a perfect fifth it is known as a *major* triad. When the triad is altered by lowering the major third one halfstep, it becomes a *minor* triad. The examples below are chords that have altered intervals.



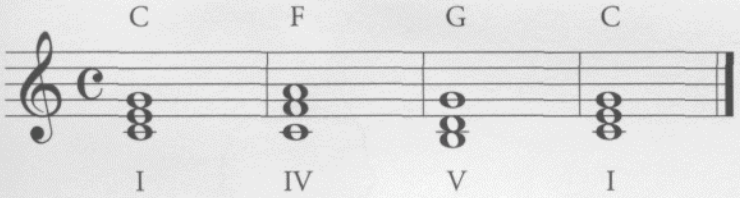
Enharmonic Spelling

Enharmonic tones are tones that have different notation or spelling, but have the same pitch; like C♯ and D♭. You will encounter these differences throughout this book, mostly as altered triads. The reason that this occurs is to make it easier to read while playing from a piece of music manuscript. In the following example, D♭m7♭9 demonstrates why this approach is practical and preferred. As stated before, triads are superposed thirds or notes that are stacked one on top of the other. This allows the musician to see, at a glance, what chord they are going to play. So with this in mind, look at the D♭m7♭9 example. You will notice that the E♭ is double flatted (E♭♭), this allows the musician, again at a glance, to see that what would be the nine of the chord is now flatted. The other example is indeed the same chord, but by using the D instead of the E♭♭ the chords becomes harder to read.

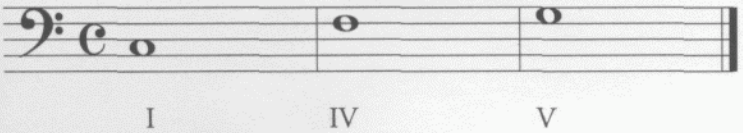


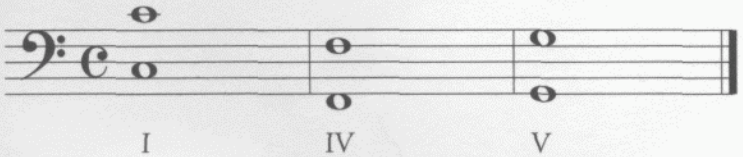
Progressions

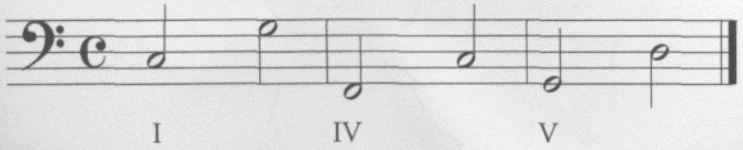
The chord progression of a piece of music is its harmonic framework. As you become familiar with the different types of music you will find various forms of progressions. One of the most popular and widely used is the I-IV-V, which was derived from early blues styles. Simply stated I, IV, and V are the first, fourth, and fifth steps of a scale. The following examples are in the key of C, so the chords that would correspond to this progression are C major, F major, and G major.

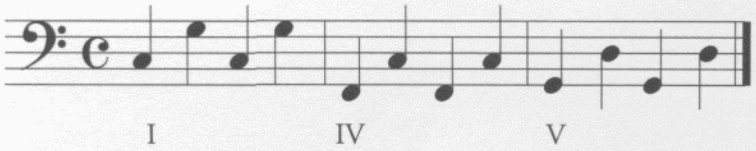


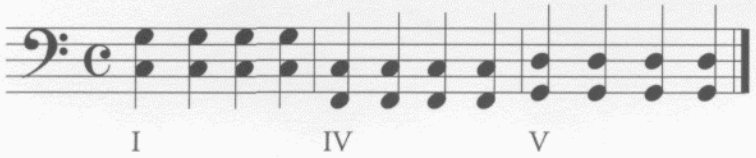
Here are some bass lines to use with the I-IV-V.



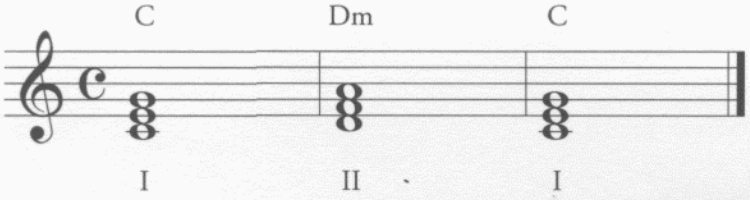


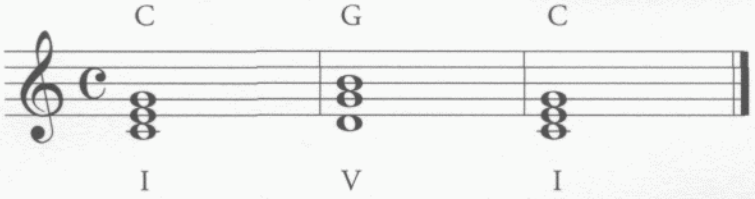


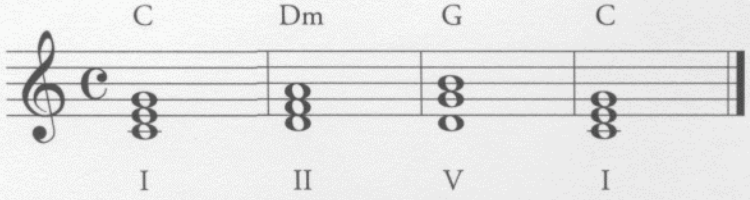


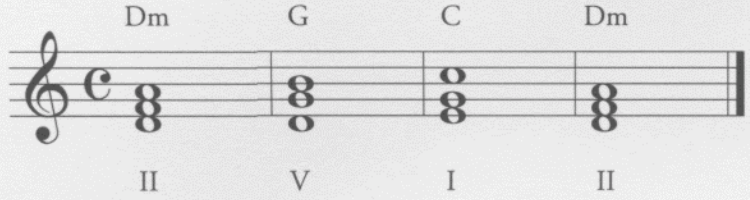


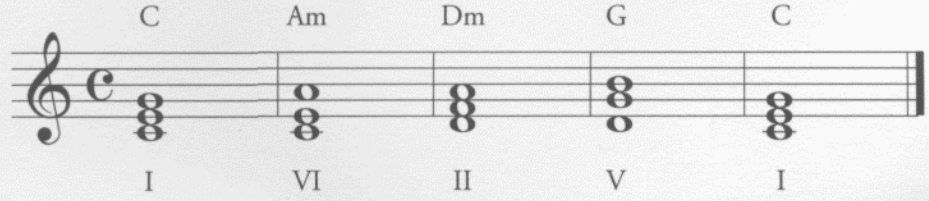
Try these other familiar progressions.











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